

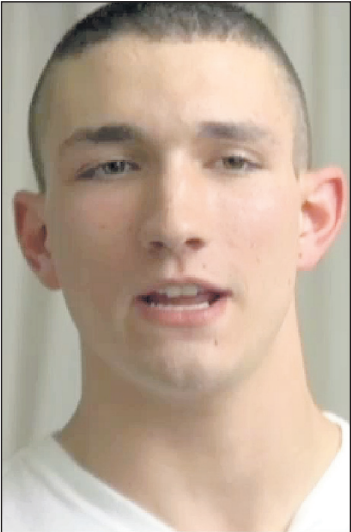
Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, July 29, 2011

Fort Hood once again targeted

J. DAVID GOODMAN
© 2011 New York Times

An Army soldier who had been absent without leave since earlier this month was arrested this week near Fort Hood with a gun and suspicious materials in what local law enforcement officials described on Thursday



This photo, provided by WSMV-TV in Nashville, Tenn., shows Pfc. Naser Abdo. Abdo, 21, arrested Wednesday, July 27, 2011, who had weapons stashed in a motel room near Fort Hood, Texas, admitted planning an attack on the post, where 13 people died in 2009 in the worst mass shooting ever on a U.S. military installation, the Army said in an alert issued Thursday.

(AP Photo/WSMV-TV)

as a "terror plot" to kill other soldiers.

The police in Killeen, Texas, arrested the suspect, Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, in a motel room near the southern edge of the base on Wednesday, one day after a clerk at a local gun store alerted the police about a suspicious purchase, the police said.

Continued on Next Page

Divided we stall



The Capitol Dome is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 28, 2011. The federal budget fight reached new heights of uncertainty Thursday night as the House Republican leadership abruptly put off a vote on its proposal to raise the debt ceiling to avert a government default.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

House cancels debt vote Thursday as conservatives balk

Carl Hulse
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WASHINGTON — The federal budget fight reached new heights of uncertainty Thursday night as the House Republican leadership abruptly put off a vote on its proposal to raise the debt ceiling to avert a government default. Republican lawmakers who opposed the plan were summoned to the speaker's office for a new round of lobbying by top House members. As he left the office, one of those called in for an arm-twisting, Rep. Louie Gohmert of Texas, said he remained "a bloody beaten-down no." The postponement threw the endgame of the debt-

limit clash into doubt. The White House and Senate Democratic leaders had

been waiting for the House to act before making their next move, with an eye on



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio takes part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 28, 2011, to discuss the debt crisis showdown.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

the Aug. 2 deadline set by the Treasury Department for raising the debt ceiling or facing the possibility that the government would not be able to meet all its financial obligations.

Republicans had expressed confidence throughout the day that they would round up enough recalcitrant conservatives to pass their plan.

But shortly before 6 p.m., near the end of a two-hour debate on the plan, Republicans halted the proceedings, and Democrats claimed that Speaker John A. Boehner was still short of the votes he needed.

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House cancels debt vote Thursday as conservatives balk

Continued from Front Page

At 6:50, the leaders stopped all business on the floor, where the House had worked through a list of post offices to be renamed, and called a recess, leaving unclear when work might resume on the measure that would provide a \$900 billion increase in the federal debt limit in exchange for slightly more than that in spending cuts.

Failure to pass the measure would represent an epic defeat for Boehner, the first-year speaker who has invested significant political capital in trying to get his fractious majority behind the legislation, which had the strong support of the entire leadership team. Although they knew the vote was going to be close given the philosophical objections of many House Republicans to an increase in federal borrowing power, Republicans earlier Thursday had made it clear that they expected to pass the legislation in an effort to force the Democratic-led Senate into accepting it. "When the House takes action today, the United States Senate will have no more excuses for inaction," Boehner said Thursday afternoon, just before the debate began.

But with House Democrats offering no votes, even from the party's fiscal conservatives, Republicans evidently remained shy of the total needed for passage, and Boehner engaged in some public arm-twisting as he pulled members off the floor into a nearby office. Republican House members who met with the speaker, in his frantic search for votes, included Mo Brooks of Alabama, Jeff Flake and Trent Franks of Arizona, and two freshmen from Illinois, Randy Hultgren and Joe Walsh. Asked when the vote would occur, Walsh said: "We don't know yet. It's up in the air." For the moment, he said, he was still a no vote. News of the prospect that the vote could be put off began circulating as Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader



A small group of religious leaders start a prayer vigil in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to protest budget cuts, in Washington, July 28, 2011. After refusing to stop, the group was arrested and escorted out of the building.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

and former House speaker, was making her party's closing argument against the plan on the floor.

Rep. Steven C. LaTourette, R-Ohio, who was serving as the presiding officer, announced that the House was going to turn to other legislative business – naming post offices – when she concluded.

The delay caught Senate Democrats off guard. Harry Reid, the majority leader, had said earlier Thursday that once the House approved its plan, he intended to immediately set it aside and move ahead with his proposal for deeper spending cuts and a longer extension in the debt limit, which would ultimately be thrown back to the House. □

Soldier arrested near fort hood; terror plot alleged



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kris Poppe, left, Maj. Christopher E. Martin, center, and Capt. Justin Oshana, right, depart the justice center Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in Fort Hood, Texas. The three are the defense team for Maj. Nidal Hasan, the Army psychiatrist who faces the death penalty in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage. An Army soldier who had been absent without leave since earlier this month was arrested this week near Fort Hood with a gun and suspicious materials in what local law enforcement officials described on Thursday as a "terror plot" to kill other soldiers at Fort Hood.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

Continued from Front Page

According to a law enforcement official, among the items found in Abdo's room at the time of his arrest were a military uniform with Fort Hood patches, a pistol, shotgun shells and an article on "how to make a bomb in your kitchen" from the English-language al-

Qaida magazine Inspire.

He also had more than one wall clock, a cellphone, duct tape and a shopping list for what appear to be explosive components, the official said.

The police said they had interviewed Abdo in the city jail and that his statement "leads us to believe that military personnel were targeted," said Dennis M.

Baldwin, the Killeen chief of police. He said Abdo did not appear to be part of any larger plot. "As far as we know, he did act alone," Baldwin said.

It was unclear what connection Abdo had to Fort Hood. He had been absent without leave from his own base, Fort Campbell in Kentucky, since early this month. The announce-

ment of his arrest renewed a sense of vulnerability at Fort Hood, where on Nov. 5, 2009, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, an army psychiatrist, went on a shooting rampage that killed 13 people and wounded 32 at a medical facility on the base. Trial is set for March 5. Base officials quickly issued a statement to reassure soldiers. "At this time, there has been no incident at Fort Hood," officials said. "We continue our diligence in keeping our force protection at appropriate levels."

At an afternoon news conference, the Killeen police chief underscored what he felt was the seriousness of the situation, saying, "We probably would be here giving you a different briefing had he not been stopped."

Abdo, who joined the Army in April of 2009, gained national attention last summer when he refused to deploy with his unit to Afghanistan, insisting his Muslim faith prevented him from serving. He fought his deployment since 2010 and gave multiple interviews.

"I was under the impression that I could serve both the U.S. Army and my God simultaneously," he said in a television interview with CNN last summer. □

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Jeffs mute during his opening statement

WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)

— A prosecutor told jurors Thursday he would present an audio recording of a polygamist sect leader raping a 12-year-old and other evidence showing the 55-year-old impregnated a 15-year-old girl during the man's sexual assault trial. The trial began shortly after Warren Jeffs fired his high-powered defense team and a judge allowed the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to defend himself. But when it came his turn to present an opening statement, Jeffs was mute, sitting silently in his courtroom seat. Then, as the prosecutor continued to present his case, Jeffs stared off into space, appearing not to be paying attention to the proceedings. "You've sat here now for an hour and not said a word," Judge Barbara Walther said, then added his continued silence could have "a very bad result." The silence was a sharp contrast to Jeffs' earlier behavior in court. Then, he spoke for more than 20 minutes, telling the judge he had spent extensive time training his lawyers, but they weren't able to present "a pure defense."

In New York:

US, North Korea wrap up first day of talks

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. said it wants a concrete indication that nuclear-armed North Korea is willing to take "irreversible steps" to give up atomic weapons as negotiators wrapped up a first round of talks Thursday.

Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, the Obama administration's top envoy on North Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan remained silent after meeting behind closed doors at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations for a total of about five hours.

The State Department called the talks "serious and business-like" and said in a statement they will resume Friday morning.

The U.S. wants to determine if North Korea is ready to fulfill its commitments under a 2005 joint declaration requiring the North to abandon all nuclear weapons programs and allow the return of international weapons inspectors. In exchange, Pyongyang would get better relations with its Asian neighbors, energy assistance, and a pledge from Washington that it wouldn't attack the North. The statement said that Washington wants to see a willingness from the North "to take concrete and irreversible steps."

"They've been down this road before and it's a chance for us to gauge their seriousness," State De-

partment spokesman Mark Toner said earlier Thursday. "What we're looking for is a concrete indication that they're going to move forward. We're not going to necessarily say what that

photographers, camera-men and reporters.

Ri Gun, the director general of the North American affairs bureau in North Korea's Foreign Ministry, when asked whether he was op-

The discussions aim to build on last week's surprise talks between nuclear negotiators from North and South Korea in Indonesia, the first such meeting since disarmament talks were last



North Korean diplomats return to the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations, after lunch on Thursday, July 28, 2011, in New York. Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan arrived in New York on July 26, 2011, and is in the middle of diplomatic discussions with the United States.

(AP Photo/Andrew Burton)

might look like, but what we have said is that they need to show that they're willing to comply with their commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement."

Bosworth greeted Kim at the entrance to the U.S. Mission in the shadow of the U.N. headquarters complex when he arrived with his delegation Thursday morning. They smiled and shook hands before a throng of

timistic about the meeting, replied: "I'm not sure yet." The high-level meetings have raised hopes of a possible breakthrough in resuming disarmament negotiations after more than a year of high tensions between rivals North and South Korea. Seoul blames Pyongyang for two attacks last year that killed 50 South Koreans and led to threats of war.

held in December 2008. The arms talks collapsed shortly afterward.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton invited the North Korean vice foreign minister to New York after what U.S. officials described as a constructive meeting. But she said the U.S. wouldn't reward the North for just returning to the table or promising to uphold old agreements.

Lawyer: Report of call misquoted housekeeper

JIM DWYER

JOHN ELIGON

ANAHAD O'CONNOR

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NEW YORK — A lawyer for the hotel housekeeper who accused Dominique Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her has disputed the claim that his client was captured on tape implying she intended to extort Strauss-Kahn.

The lawyer, Kenneth P. Thompson, and the housekeeper, Nafissatou Diallo, spent much of the day Wednesday at the district attorney's office in Manhattan, where they listened to a recording of conversations Diallo had with a fellow African immigrant in an Arizona jail about a day after she said she was attacked. A law enforcement official told The New York Times this month that Diallo could be heard saying on the tape "words to the effect of, 'Don't worry. This guy has a lot of money. I know what I'm doing.'" But after listening to the recording on Wednesday, Thompson told reporters at a news conference that Diallo's statements had been mischaracterized. He said that at no point did she raise the issue of Strauss-Kahn's wealth or status in the way that prosecutors had described it. Rather,

he said, the man she was speaking with, who initiated the calls to Diallo, remarked during one conversation that Diallo could stand to

ter with Strauss-Kahn was consistent with what she told investigators a day earlier. In sexual-assault cases, people who hear an early

said in an interview after his news conference. "She said: 'I didn't know who he was. We fought each other. Because he wasn't able to

erence to protection provided by investigators.

"The first call that the guy in prison made to Nafi Diallo corroborates that Dominique Strauss-Kahn violently attacked her and tried to rape her," Thompson said. It was during the second call that the subject of money came up, the lawyer said.

"The guy in jail called back several hours later, expressing concern, 'Are you OK,' and she says she is," Thompson said. "During the second conversation, she said, 'People from France keep calling me and saying he's rich and powerful.'"

The man then expressed concern about her, the lawyer said, asking whether she was safe.

"She told him she was in Manhattan, that a lawyer was coming to see her — it was not me," Thompson said. "She said, 'Don't worry, I know what I'm doing.'" At some point, the man told Diallo that by moving forward with the case, "you'll get a lot of money," Thompson said. But he insisted that Diallo made it clear that was not her intention.

"She said, 'Stop, stop.' He's going on and on on the phone about it, she didn't want to deal with that. She said, 'Please stop. Wait, wait. The lawyer will get it.' Meaning, the lawyer would deal with it."

But prosecutors did not see it that way. Thompson said that in a phone conversation late on the afternoon of June 30, he was told by a senior prosecutor that the conversations created "big problems" for the case and that the prosecutor mischaracterized Diallo's statements as implying that she intended to exploit the charges for money. □



Kenneth Thompson, a lawyer for Nafissatou Diallo, left, Diallo, the woman who has accused Dominique Strauss-Kahn of sexual assault, center, and Pastor A.R. Bernard, the CEO of the Christian Life Center, at a Coalition Press Conference at the Christian Life Center in New York on July 28, 2011. Diallo thanked supporters in New York and voiced concerned that her reputation has been smeared.

(Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

gain money from the case, but she quickly dismissed the idea and said it was a matter for her lawyer. Of even greater importance, Thompson said, during the first of the calls, her description of the encoun-

account of an attack are called "outcry witnesses" and are often used to buttress the credibility of a person making an accusation. "She told the guy that someone tried to rape her at her job," Thompson

take off my clothes, he put his penis in my mouth. He touched me. They took me to the hospital, and they arrested him."

In a statement released Wednesday night, Erin M. Duggan, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., said: "This is a pending criminal case. We will have no comment on evidence, or on any meetings between prosecutors and witnesses, civil attorneys or defense counsel." According to Thompson, Diallo said during her first conversation with the man in jail that her attacker was a powerful person but that she was now with the government, presumably a ref-

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2 Puerto Ricans accused of attacking pilot at Miami airport

MIAMI (AP) — A man punched an American Airlines pilot who kicked him off a flight from Miami, and he and his brother then attacked the pilot again before bystanders tackled the brothers in the terminal, officials said Thursday.

Jonathan and Luis Baez, both of Las Piedras, Puerto Rico, were arrested at Miami International Airport. They had been aboard American Airlines Flight 1755 bound for San Francisco on Wednesday night, according to an arrest affidavit.

While the plane taxied away from the gate, a flight attendant noticed 27-year-old Jonathan Baez was sleeping and had not buckled his seat belt, police said. She tried to wake him, but she told police that Baez was unresponsive and appeared to be intoxicated or on drugs.



In these two booking mug shots released by Miami-Dade police are brothers Luis (left) and Jonathan Baez of Puerto Rico in Miami Wednesday July 27, 2011. The Baez brothers were arrested after they punched an American Airlines pilot at the Miami International Airport Wednesday, July 27, 2011. The brothers were kicked off the San Francisco bound flight after a flight attendant noticed Jonathan sleeping with his seat belt not buckled. The plane was on the runway and returned to the gate. As he was escorted off the plane with his brother, they attacked the pilot.

(AP Photo/Miami-Dade Police Dept., HO)

The pilot turned the plane around and returned to gate D51. The pilot and flight atten-

dant then woke up Baez and told him to get off the plane, police said.

Luis Baez, 29, decided to join his brother as he was being escorted off the plane. As the brothers walked toward the aircraft's exit door, they became belligerent, and Luis Baez told the pilot, "When you fly to San Juan I will have you killed," according to the arrest report.

The brothers walked off the plane, but then Jonathan Baez returned and punched the pilot in the face and hit the flight attendant in the shoulder when she tried to intervene, police said.

Both brothers attacked the pilot again in the jet bridge and chased him in the terminal, according to the arrest report. □

Psychologists overestimated effects of 9/11, review finds

BENEDICT CAREY

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The mental fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks has taught psychologists far more about their field's limitations than about their potential to shape and predict behavior, a wide-ranging review has found.

The report, a collection of articles due to be published next month in a special issue of the journal *American Psychologist*, relates a succession of humbling missteps after the attacks.

Experts greatly overestimated the number of people in New York who would suffer emotional distress. They rushed in to soothe victims using methods that proved later to be harmful to some. And they fell to arguing over whether watching an event on television could produce the same kind of traumatic reaction as actually being there.

These and other embarrassments have changed the way mental health workers respond to traumatic events, said Roxane Cohen Silver, a psychologist at the University of Cali-

fornia, Irvine, who oversaw the special issue along with editors at the journal.

"You have to understand," she said, "that before 9/11 we didn't have any good way to estimate the response to something like this other than — well, estimates" based on earthquakes and other trauma. Researchers later discovered that the standard approach at the time, in which the therapist urges a distressed person to talk through the experience and emotions, backfires for many people.

They plunge even deeper into anxiety and depression when forced to relive the mayhem.

Crisis response teams now take a much less intense

approach called psychological first aid, teaching basic coping skills and having victims recount their experience only if it seems to help.

One of the biggest lessons of 9/11, said Richard McNally, a psychologist at Harvard who did not contribute to the new report, was that it "brought attention to the limitations of this debriefing." Another, he said, was that it drove home the fact that people are far more resilient than experts thought. Estimates after the attack projected epidemic levels of post-traumatic stress, afflicting perhaps 100,000 people, or 35 percent of those exposed to the attack in one way or another. □

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Former officials:

Al-Qaida still likely to use WMD

KIMBERLY DOZIER
AP Intelligence Writer

ASPEN, Colorado (AP) — A chemical or biological attack by al-Qaida and its offshoots remains a threat, despite the killing of terror leader Osama bin Laden, top former U.S. counterterrorist officials said Thursday. Mike Leiter, the just-retired director of the National Counterterrorism Center, made the comments to an audience at the Aspen Security Forum.

"We still have pockets of al-Qaida around the world who see this as a key way to fight us," especially the offshoot in Yemen," he said. "The potential threat from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is very real." Leiter said the new breed of terrorists understands that killing a few Americans can cause as much fear as the massive plots bin Laden backed. "The most likely ... are simple forms of chemical or biological weapons" rather than a nuclear attack, Leiter said, using the poison ricin as an example of something that's easily made. "Is it going to kill many people? No. Is it going to scare people? Yes," he said.

"Bin Laden was really prioritizing the big attack," Leiter added. "Some of them may have fantasies about pulling off another 9/11," but his affiliates realize they can affect U.S. strategy

and society with smaller scale attacks.

"Anwar al-Awlaki gets that," Leiter said, naming the U.S.-born radical cleric of the Yemeni branch. And so do other offshoots, like the Pakistani Taliban, which sent a bomber to try to blow up a car in the middle of Times Square a year ago,

ida was weaker after bin Laden's killing. "I think it is now possible ... to actually visualize, to imagine its collapse," McLaughlin said, speaking of the original core group. But he warned against underestimating Zawahiri or his followers. "He's not as charismatic ... but he may be more disci-



This image taken from the the Arabic-language al-Shamouk jihadist website shows promotional material for an animated cartoon an al-Qaida affiliate says it plans to roll out aimed at recruiting children into the terror network. Scenes from the proposed short film show young boys dressed in battle fatigues and participating in raids, killings and terror plots. Arabic text at top reads "Cartoon films for supporters of Qaida Jihad in the Arabia Peninsula" and at top left "Coming soon." Smaller text is indistinct.

(AP Photo)

he said.

With bin Laden gone, Leiter and former CIA Deputy Director John McLaughlin both predicted new leader Ayman al-Zawahiri launch similar smaller scale campaign. "Zawahiri will probably favor smaller targets," McLaughlin told the audience. "Bin Laden did not." Leiter and McLaughlin both said Zawahiri's core al-Qa-

plined, he said, adding that Zawahiri is a physician who has long been interested in using weapons of mass destruction to attack.

"What we will know is there has been no successful inbound attack since 9/11 that we can attribute directly to al-Qaida," added Charles Allen, who has held multiple top positions at the CIA over the years. □

27 deemed as threats held FAA licenses, report finds

MATTHEW L. WALD

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WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration cannot determine the real identity of thousands of the people to whom the Federal Aviation Administration has issued licenses as pilots and aircraft mechanics, but has located an additional 27 who should not have held them because of terrorist connections, according to an internal report by the Department of Homeland Security.

The report was requested two years ago by four senators, after a private data analysis company in New York determined that the man convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 still held an FAA license, as did a man caught trying to smuggle military equipment to Hezbollah in Lebanon, a man convicted of trying to manufacture an airborne poison in his basement and a self-described eco-terrorist who fled the country after he was indicted on a charge of arson.

The FAA and the Department of Homeland Security were supposed to scour the list of licensed pilots, mechanics and flight dispatchers for terrorists under a law approved by Congress after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but they have shown great difficulty in doing the work, despite having access to much more information than the private company.

The new report, by the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security, found that the FAA had Social Security numbers of only about 750,000 people of the 1.3 million names in its Airmen Registry and that among those for whom it had numbers, more than 15,000 did not match the Social Security database for name, sex or date of birth. By law, the FAA cannot require a Social Security number, the report noted, and as a result, "TSA may not identify U.S. citizens who have provided false biographic information to receive an airman certificate."

Not all of the discrepancies represent a potential security threat; the report said that more extensive study over the past few years found that 8,000 of the license holders were dead.

The report offers no details about the 27 individuals whose certificates were canceled but does give an indication of the poor state of federal records, almost a decade after the Sept. 11 attacks. An initial computer scan found about 29,000 certificates that matched names on the government's Terrorist Screening Database, but further study found that 28,500 of the matches were invalid; 506 were turned over for closer scrutiny, yielding the 27 names. □

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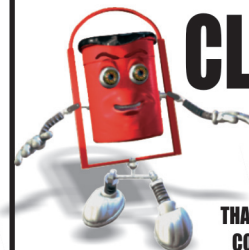
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Blogs eroding China censors

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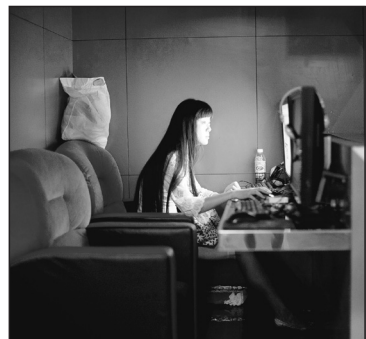
BEIJING — “After all the wind and storm, what’s going on with the high-speed train?” read the prophetic message posted Saturday evening on the Chinese microblog Sina Weibo.

“It’s crawling slower than a snail. I hope nothing happens to it.”

They were a few short sentences, typed by a young girl with the online handle Smm Miao.

But five days later, the torrent that followed them was still flooding this nation’s Internet, and lapping at the feet of government bureaucrats, censors and the state-controlled media.

The train the girl saw, on a



A women at an internet cafe in Beijing, July 28, 2011. Swift and comprehensive blog posts on the train accident in China that killed 39 people and injured 192 this week are a humbling example for the Communist Party mouthpieces and state television, whose blinkered coverage of rescued babies only belatedly gave way to careful reports on the public’s discontent.

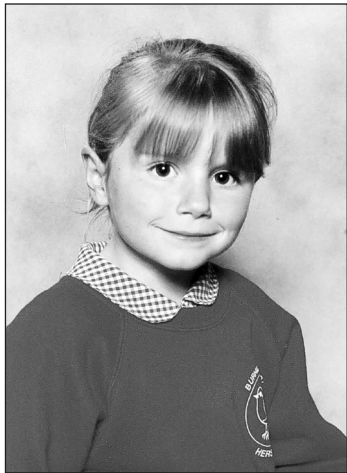
(Sim Chi Yin/The New York Times)

track outside Wenzhou in coastal Zhejiang province, was rammed from behind minutes later, killing 39 people and injuring 192. Since then, China’s two major Twitter-like microblogs — called weibos here — have posted 26 million messages on the tragedy, including some that have forced embarrassed officials to reverse themselves.

The messages are a potent amalgam of contempt for railway authorities, suspicion of government explanations and shoe-leather journalism by citizens and professionals alike. □

Charity:

Slain girl’s mom targeted by tabloid PI



Undated handout photo released by her family of British schoolgirl Sarah Payne, 8, who was murdered by a pedophile in 2000. Her mother Sara Payne has been told by detectives that her contact details are on a list compiled by a private investigator used by the News of the World, it was reported Thursday July 28, 2011.

(AP Photo/ Family photo via PA)

JILL LAWLESSR. G. SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain’s simmering phone hacking scandal has erupted again as a charity founded by the mother of a murdered child said she was targeted by a detective who worked for the News of the World.

The charity, Phoenix Child Advocates, said Glenn Mulcaire, a detective employed by the now-defunct tabloid, had the details of Sara Payne in his notes. Payne is the mother of 8-year-old Sarah Payne, whose murder by a pedophile in 2000 shocked Britain and was heavily covered by the News of the World. The charity said in a statement Thursday that police

had previously said Sara Payne’s name was not on a list held by Mulcaire, who was jailed in 2007 for hacking into the voice mail messages of royal staff. But it said “it has now been confirmed by (police) that Sara’s details are on his list.” “Sara is absolutely devastated by this news, we’re all deeply disappointed and are just working to get her through it,” it said.

The Colchester, England-based charity advocates for victims of pedophile crimes. It was unclear whether Mulcaire had merely obtained Payne’s number or whether he or anyone else had tried to eavesdrop on her voice mails. Thousands of names were on Mulcaire’s list, and it still isn’t certain how many of them were actually spied upon.

The ongoing scandal over illegal eavesdropping has shaken Rupert Murdoch’s global media empire, led to the resignation of top executives, including Murdoch protégé Rebekah Brooks, and prompted the closure of the 168-year-old News of the World tabloid, which she once edited.

Murdoch’s News International company said in a statement that the matter is being taken “very seriously” and said the company would cooperate with all criminal and civil inquiries into the new allegations. If it were shown that Mulcaire had in fact targeted Payne, and that he had done so at the behest of Brooks’ paper, it would

be one of the most shocking revelations to have emerged so far.

Brooks was closely involved in covering the death of Sarah Payne, and under her stewardship, the News of the World was heavily involved in campaigning for a measure, dubbed “Sarah’s Law,” to give the public access to information about convicted sex offenders. It set up a petition that drew hundreds of thousands of signatures.

cause Payne was a “dear friend.”

“The idea that anyone on the newspaper knew that Sara or the campaign team were targeted by Mr. Mulcaire is unthinkable,” she said. “The idea of her being targeted is beyond my comprehension.”

The news came as a senior judge opened an inquiry into the scandal that will start by looking at whether the country needs tougher media regulation, and will



FILE - Oct. 8 2002 file photo of former News International Chief Executive Rebekah Brooks (at the time Rebekah Wade), left, standing next to Sara Payne, mother of murdered girl Sarah, who died at the hands of a pedophile. Brooks as editor of the News of the World was a high profile supporter of a law proposed by Payne to make public the whereabouts of sex offenders. Payne has been told by detectives that her contact details are on a list compiled by a private investigator used by the News of the World, currently being investigated for illegal phone hacking.

(AP Photo/Stefan Rousseau/PA)

Sara Payne even wrote an article for the News of the World’s final edition, calling the muckraking tabloid “a force for good.”

In a statement, Brooks said the latest allegations were “particularly upsetting” be-

have the power to force witnesses to give evidence. Justice Brian Leveson said he has the legal power to demand statements and documents from witnesses — and plans to use it “as soon as possible.” □

Norway’s ‘lone-wolf’ attacks stir angst in Europe

DON
KARL RITTER
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Norway casts it as the isolated act of a lone-wolf terrorist whose boasts of a far-flung network of anti-Muslim warriors were the fantasies of a deranged mind. European officials at an emergency counter-terror meeting see a continent-wide threat from right-wing extremists

MELVIN

amid mounting Islamophobia — and warn of possible copycats.

Two visions of the Norway atrocity emerged Thursday as Europe gropes for answers following the massacre that claimed 78 lives. The twin attacks carried out by Anders Behring Breivik have stirred questions in Europe about whether authorities have neglected the threat of right-wing

extremists in their push to crack down on Islamist terror groups after 9/11. Security officials insist they have not, and statistics from the European police agency Europol show no surge in right-wing terror. Still, many politicians saw the Norway attacks as a violent expression of a far-right populist movement that has swept anti-Muslim parties calling for strict immigration lim-

its into parliaments across the continent. At an emergency meeting in Brussels, European Union counter-terrorism officials warned radicals who share Breivik’s ideology might be tempted to follow his lead.

“Clearly, one major risk is that somebody may actually try to mount a similar attack as a copycat attack or as a way of showing support,” □

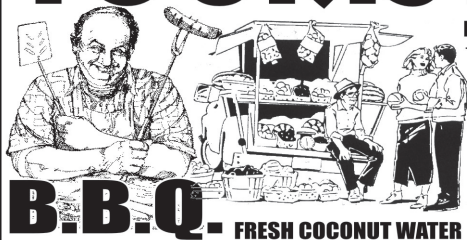
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Hugo Chavez turns 57 vowing to overcome cancer

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela
(AP) — Venezuelan leader

Hugo Chavez sang on a balcony of the presidential palace as he celebrated his 57th birthday Thursday before a crowd of adoring supporters, vowing to overcome cancer.

Chavez waved a large Venezuelan flag on the balcony, then sang and swayed while a band below playing folk music. He saluted to the crowd and blew kisses while hundreds of supporters cheered and pumped fists in the air.

"We will live!" Chavez told the crowd. "Long live the homeland!"

He also pledged to win re-election in 2012, saying:

"We're going for 10 million votes next year!"

Chavez put an arm around one of his daughters and watched while sparkling candles burned on a giant cake. "I'd like to be down there with you all, but I shouldn't," he said.

He said earlier on state television that he expects his hair will begin to fall out soon due to chemotherapy. Still, he said he should be finished with the most difficult phase of his cancer treatments by December, when he hopes to host a summit of Latin American leaders in Caracas.

"At the end of the year, I should have passed this hard, careful, very, very strict phase," Chavez said in a telephone conversation aired on television Thursday



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, dances with his daughter Rosa Virginia at a balcony of Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, July 28, 2011. Chavez sang on a balcony of the presidential palace as he celebrated his 57th birthday before a crowd of adoring supporters, vowing to overcome cancer.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

morning.

He said he sent letters and Caribbean leaders to the summit in Caracas on inviting Latin American Dec. 9. That meeting had

originally been scheduled for July 5-6 but was postponed due to Chavez's illness.

Around the country, Chavez's supporters held a series of televised events honoring his birthday. A group of children sang for him and blew out a candle on a cake. Oil workers in red hardhats sent best wishes, supporters danced to live music in a Caracas plaza, and the president's older brother, Adan, led a crowd singing "Happy Birthday."

The president didn't attend other events aside from his appearance at the presidential palace. He said that for now he needs to limit his contact with the public because chemotherapy has weakened him and his white blood cell count has declined.

"The defenses decrease, and I have a lot of restrictions on interpersonal contact," Chavez said. "I even asked my mother, my brothers, my family to stay put in Barinas," their home state in western Venezuela. □

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Medellin cartel enforcer gets prison

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLOMBIA/MIAMI (AP) — An admitted enforcer for Colombia's once-fearsome Medellin cocaine cartel was sentenced Thursday to more than three years in U.S. prison after pleading guilty to drug conspiracy charges dating back to 1994.

U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore said that Sigifredo Maya, 49, and his three brothers were instrumental in setting up the Medellin cartel's East Coast cocaine distribution network based in Miami. Under the leadership of drug lord Pablo Escobar, the network shipped several thousand tons of drugs to the U.S. beginning in 1979, prosecutors said.

"This was a substantial conspiracy by any definition," Moore said. "I understand he was not the ringleader, but he was involved in an extensive cocaine conspiracy."

Maya and his three brothers were all indicted in 1994, but the case was sealed.

Maya was traveling earlier this year to Mexico when he was detained by Panamanian authorities who were aware of the charges. Maya flew to Miami — his attorney said he paid for his own ticket — to face charges he did not previously know existed and has been in custody since March.

The other three Maya brothers are fugitives and believed by the Drug Enforcement Administration to be in Colombia.

The Medellin cartel, notorious for its violent methods and assassinations, was once responsible for the vast majority of cocaine smuggled to the U.S. Escobar, who was killed by Colombian police in 1993, during the 1980s was regularly listed by Forbes magazine as one of the world's richest men. He had a substantial following among people in Colombia who viewed him as a Robin Hood-like figure because he built housing projects and soccer fields for the poor. □

World Briefs

Mexico town's mayor found dead

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Prosecutors say the mayor of a town in Zacatecas was found murdered alongside a local farm union official a day after they were kidnapped. The two were abducted by gunmen in northwestern Mexico on Wednesday. Their bodies were found bound, blindfolded and shot dead on Thursday. Fortino Cortes Sandoval was mayor of Florencia de Benito Juarez. Prosecutors from Jalisco and Zacatecas are asking for help from the federal government in prosecuting the case. Last week a confrontation between the army and suspected hitmen in a stretch of highway that connects the municipality of Teulada with Sandoval's city left six dead. A dozen mayors have been killed in Mexico since last year, many victims of violence related to drug cartels. □

40 dead in fresh Yemeni clashes

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Clashes between Yemeni soldiers and armed tribesmen in a mountainous region north of the capital killed at least 40 people on Thursday, a military official said. The fighting in the Arhab region is one example of the wider security collapse across Yemen since the outbreak of a massive uprising seeking to topple President Ali Abdullah Saleh six months ago. Armed tribesmen are battling security forces in Arhab, the southern city of Taiz and elsewhere, while militants believed to be linked to al-Qaida have overrun entire towns in the impoverished country's restive south. The U.S. and Yemen's powerful Gulf Arab neighbors worry that al-Qaida and other militant groups will exploit the security vacuum in Yemen to step up operations. □

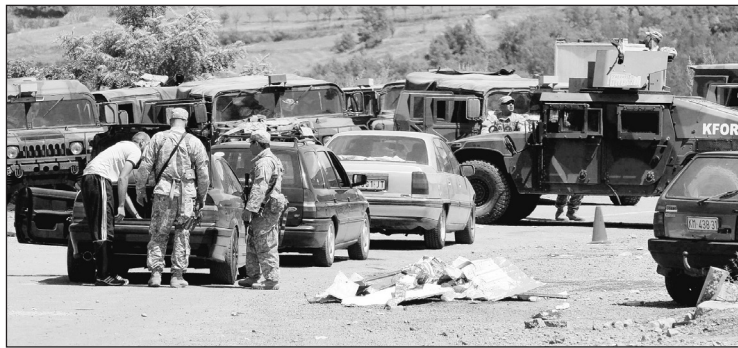
Libyan rebels say commander killed

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — The head of the Libyan rebel armed forces was shot and killed Thursday just before arriving for questioning by rebel authorities, their political leader said in a carefully worded statement to reporters that gave few details on who was behind the killing. Adding to the confusion, the rebels had said hours earlier they had already detained the commander, Abdel-Fattah Yunis, on suspicion his family might still have ties to the regime of Moammar Gadhafi, raising questions about whether he might have been assassinated by his own side. Such a scenario would signal a troubling split within the rebel movement at a time when their forces have failed to make battlefield gains despite nearly four months of NATO airstrikes against Gadhafi's forces. □

Double bombing kills 12 in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A double bombing Thursday struck an Iraqi bank in Saddam Hussein's hometown where policemen were picking up their paychecks, killing 12 and wounding 34 people, officials said. The two midmorning blasts — one from a suicide bomber, the other from a car bomb — marked the fourth major attack this year on Iraqi security forces in the northern city of Tikrit, a former hotbed for Sunni insurgents bent on targeting the government and exposing the country's instability. Salahuddin provincial spokesman Mohammed al-Asi said the two explosions went off outside the state-run Rafidain bank where policemen were picking up their monthly pay. It wasn't known how many policemen were among the dead and wounded. Television footage of the blast showed a huge white cloud over the two-story bank, followed by thick black smoke. □

NATO peacekeepers can fire if attacked in Kosovo



US soldiers serving in KFOR check vehicles from Serbia entering Kosovo after reopening a checkpoint, demolished and burnt by angry Kosovo Serbs, in the village of Jarinje, on the Serbia-Kosovo border, Thursday, July 28, 2011.

(AP Photo/Zveki)

NEBI QENA

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — American and French peacekeepers were told Thursday to fire their weapons in defense if attacked at border posts on Kosovo's northern boundary with Serbia, a day after the

crossings were set ablaze by Serbs armed with fire-bombs, a NATO spokesman said. There have been days of mounting tension between ethnic Albanians and minority Serbs after Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci ordered special police units to take

over two disputed border posts that were previously manned by Serb members of the police under EU supervision. One Kosovo policeman died in the operation. "We are in command of those places," NATO spokesman Capt. Hans Wichter said. "If we are threatened, we have the right to use weapons." He said the area was "declared a military zone," meaning the alliance makes all decisions related to security. NATO troops were attacked late Wednesday by machine guns and anti-tank rockets as they moved to secure the border posts, the top NATO commander in Kosovo, Maj. Gen. Erhard Buehler, said. No injuries were reported. □



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Street battles in Somali capital amid famine help

JASON STRAZIUSO
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— African Union troops fought house-to-house battles with militants to clear space for aid groups bringing in food supplies after intelligence reports showed insurgents reinforcing for a possible attack on squalid camps of famine refugees. Heavy fighting erupted Thursday on the line of control between the government side and territory held by al-Shabab, Somalia's dominant militant group. At least six people were killed. The AU troops also paid a heavy price, with one official saying 19 were wounded, and some of them were put on an ambulance jet bound for Kenya. Somalia's famine is unfolding in the middle of a war zone, greatly complicating international efforts to prevent a wave of death. Some 2.2 million people live in an inaccessible famine zone controlled by the al-Qaida-linked al-

Shabab. Thursday's house-to-house fighting was only 2½ miles (4 kilometers) from the nearest famine refugee

camp, said Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda, spokesman for the African Union peace-keeping force.



African Union troops in defence in Yaaqshid district of Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday, July 28, 2011. The government and African Union Peacekeeping troops launched attack and seized al-Shabaab bases in Wardhiigley, Yaaqshid and Boondere districts of Mogadishu. Heavy fighting erupted Thursday in Somalia's capital as African Union peacekeepers launched an offensive aimed at protecting famine relief efforts from attacks by al-Qaida-linked militants, officials said. The al-Shabab militants already have killed men who tried to escape the famine with their families, saying it is better to starve than accept help from the West. The World Food Program says it cannot reach 2.2 million people in need of aid in the militant-controlled areas in southern Somalia because of insecurity.

(AP Photo)

The offensive, he said, was to ensure the city streets are safe for aid groups to get humanitarian supplies to the more than 20,000 famine refugees that have arrived in Mogadishu this month alone.

"The agencies have been trying to deliver. Unfortunately, al-Shabab has been bent on ensuring this aid does not reach the people," Ankunda said. "This operation is about the delivery of humanitarian aid." Al-Shabab's decision last week to rescind permission allowing aid groups to operate in areas under militant control has denied hundreds of thousands of Somalis access to food aid, he said. Ankunda added that al-Shabab has sent 300 reinforcement fighters to Mogadishu in recent days. Refugees have said militants already killed men who tried to flee famine-hit regions of Somalia with their families, saying it is better to starve than accept help from the West. African

Union intelligence reports have indicated there could be attacks on Mogadishu's patchwork of ad-hoc refugee camps. Thursday's battle was a "short, tactical offensive operation," Ankunda said. "This action will further increase security ... and ensure that aid agencies can continue to operate to get vital supplies to internally displaced," he said. Mogadishu resident Mohamed Hussein said al-Shabab fighters had withdrawn shortly after the offensive began.

"We have captured most of the bases we attacked ... and our troops are still chasing them," said Abdullahi Ali Anod, a Somali military commander. Troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia, known as AMISOM, have been eroding al-Shabab's territory all year. Ankunda said the government now controls more than 60 percent of Mogadishu, up from around 40 percent at the beginning of the year. □

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Caribbean News Briefs

2 convicted of killing Welsh couple

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — A jury convicted two Antiguan men Wednesday of killing a Welsh couple on their honeymoon during a 2008 crime spree on the Caribbean island. Relatives and supporters of Avie Howell and Kaniel Martin cried out in surprise as the verdict came at nearly midnight local time on the first day of deliberations. Jurors heard from about 90 witnesses in a trial that lasted two months. Outside court, the families of the two men wept. Howell, 20, and Martin, 23, were convicted of killing three people during a crime spree including Benjamin and Catherine Mullany. The couple were shot in their beach cottage in July 2008 during an apparent robbery on the final night of their two-week honeymoon. □

PM declares disaster after rains

ROUSEAU, Dominica (AP) — The prime minister of Dominica has declared a disaster zone around the area where heavy rain knocked out an earthen dam and caused severe flooding in the Caribbean island. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit says the collapse of the Matthieu dam destroyed part of a bridge, damaged buildings and flooded farms. He estimated the damage to the bridge over the Layou River at more than \$3 million. Skerrit tells reporters he has asked the U.S. and French governments to help assess the extent of the damage. No one was killed when the dam burst before dawn Thursday. □

Official accused of smuggling drugs

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A corporal with the Dominican Republic Air Force has been detained after authorities say he tried to transport two bicycles filled with cocaine aboard a commercial flight. National Drug Control Agency spokesman Roberto Lebron says Juan Emilio Feliz Salvador was detained at the airport late Wednesday as he waited to fly to New York. He said officials became suspicious after Feliz told them he was part of a military cycling group and would be competing in a race. Lebron said Feliz is accused of transporting more than 2 kilograms (4 pounds) of cocaine. He said two Cuban nationals also are being questioned in the case. □

Agents seize \$200k in car roof

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Federal agents in Puerto Rico have seized more than \$200,000 in cash hidden in the roof of a car bound for the Dominican Republic. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says the money was discovered during an X-ray inspection as the car boarded the Chihuahua Star ferry. The agency said in a statement Thursday that the driver declared only \$4,500 in cash. The money was seized over the weekend. Three other similar seizures were reported earlier this year. In February, federal agents detained two men in a taxi carrying \$580,000 in suitcases. A week later, police found \$670,000 stuffed inside beer boxes during a routine traffic stop. □

Egypt lays plans for venue of Mubarak trial

BEN HUBBARD

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hosni Mubarak's trial will be set in a huge Cairo convention center with hundreds of seats for an audience, heavy security and a metal defendants' cage large enough to hold the man who ruled Egypt unchallenged for three decades, his two sons and seven associates, judicial officials said Thursday.

Health Minister Amr Helmy said the 83-year-old Mubarak is well enough to be moved from a hospital in the Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where he is under arrest, to Cairo. He will face charges of corruption and ordering the killings of protesters during the uprising that toppled him in February.

"Mubarak's health is in appropriate condition for him to be tried in Cairo," Helmy told reporters. Protests have escalated recently clamoring for Mubarak and other former regime stalwarts to be brought to justice over the killings of protesters and other crimes over the years. Many activists say the ruling military council which took power from the ousted president — and is headed by Mubarak's former defense minister — is dragging its feet on the prosecutions. A few hundred hard-core protesters have erected a tent camp in Cairo's Tahrir Square — the epicenter of the uprising — to press for speedier trials, and a march last week to the headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Armed forces ended with more than 100 people injured after men armed with rocks and sticks attacked them.

Many protesters received the announcement with deep skepticism.

"I think they will find some excuse for him not to come to Cairo," said activist Marwa Nasser. "We've been guessing that they'll an-



FILE - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the Presidential palace in Cairo.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil, File)

nounce that he's dead, or that security reasons keep him from going on TV. Even if he comes, people doubt that we'll ever see him in the cage or on TV."

The plans for the trial venue show the judiciary wants to make it a public spectacle. Deputy Justice Minister Mohammed Munie told state news agency MENA that

a final decision has been made to hold the trial at Cairo's Convention Center, not far from Mubarak's Cairo home and normally a venue for book fairs and trade shows.

Munie said a large building within the center will be outfitted with enough chairs for lawyers, a special section for journalists and seating for "an audience that is connected to the case" — likely to include relatives of about 850 people killed during the uprising.

Electronic doors will be installed at entrances, and the army and the interior ministry will handle security. A member of a judicial team that visited the building Thursday said the trial room would probably have stadium-style seating for hundreds of people. Speaking on condition of anonymity because final decisions had not been made, he said the team was considering erecting large screens around the convention center to allow others to watch from outside. □

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A stage set with bees and ocean

PENELOPE GREEN

© 2011 New York Times

MONTAUK, N.Y. — Summer, as branded by Richard Christiansen, the 34-year-old head of Chandelier Creative, a buzzy boutique Manhattan advertising agency with a focus on fashion, is surf-inflected and campy (or “campy,” as Susan Sontag would have it).

And Christiansen has meticulously styled a cedar A-frame built in the 1950s — a rental, no less — to reflect that vision, switching out the contents for furnishings that are more theme-appropriate, or “on brand,” as he put it, including Day-Glo surf paintings bought in Hawaii and an armada of vintage webbed lawn chairs. (The house’s owners need not worry: Every one of their possessions has been photographed, bubble-wrapped, labeled and placed in storage nearby, so as to be redeployed with military precision when Christiansen decamps at the end of the year.)

There are now pickup lines painted on the bathroom mirrors (“Hey I lost my number, Can I have yours?” reads one), Hudson’s Bay blankets on bunk beds and teepees on the lawn, so the place can sleep at least 20, as it does most weekends.

And in beehives painted in yellow-and-white stripes, which vaguely resemble yacht ensigns, a couple of thousand bees are making honey, having dined on lavender, bee balm, Russian sage, honeysuckle and echinacea, a strict diet Christiansen planted this spring, so the honey’s flavor is just right. “Even my bees are art directed,” he said proudly.

It was early on a steamy Friday morning, and Christiansen, a fresh-faced Australian who grew up on a farm near Byron Bay, was explaining how the writings of Richard Branson and the love letters Ronald Reagan sent to Nancy Reagan gave him the idea to turn a rental in this Hamptons surf suburb into a weekend ex-

tension of his office.

Branson, you see, used to invite his staff into bed “for a cuddle,” a custom Chris-

work disconnect, so the personal becomes the professional,” he said. “You get better ideas that way.



Vitra chairs and foam pillows are covered in Hawaiian-shirt fabric on the dock on Lake Montauk at the beach shack of Richard Christiansen in Montauk, N.Y., July 22, 2011. Christiansen created the Chandelier Surf Shack: a cedar A-frame rental built in the 1950s that portrays a weekend extension of his office and sleeps at least 20 people.

(Randy Harris/The New York Times)

tiansen adopted when he started Chandelier in his apartment seven years ago.

“Branson was all about dissolving the home-slash-

“And I was reading ‘I Love You, Ronnie,’ which is very lovely and very emotional, and in it, they both talk about the whirlwind of the job and the solace they

got at their ranch and at Camp David. So I had this thought: Wouldn’t it be amazing to have our own version of Camp David?”

Many on his staff are surfers (die-hard Far Rockaway types in the winter), which is why this ad agency’s camp is in Montauk, not the Hamptons, and why it’s called Chandelier Surf Shack, a name you’ll find painted in hot pink on driftwood signs and embroidered onto pillowcases.

“Any opportunity to brand,” Christiansen said, his voice trailing off.

Hot pink, or magenta, as he prefers to call it, is Chandelier’s banner color, chosen as an emblem of arch excess, or “sparkle with a wink.” Having grown up helping his parents package “the authentic Australian experience” for Japanese tourists on their farm (putting frozen crabs into a river to be “caught”), Christiansen is adept at creating stage sets and finding shortcuts that read as authentic.

So is his twin brother, Geoffrey, managing director at Chandelier, who was also here that Friday morning and offered a frame of honey from one of the hives to a reporter, who plunged her spoon into the perfectly

formed honeycombs.

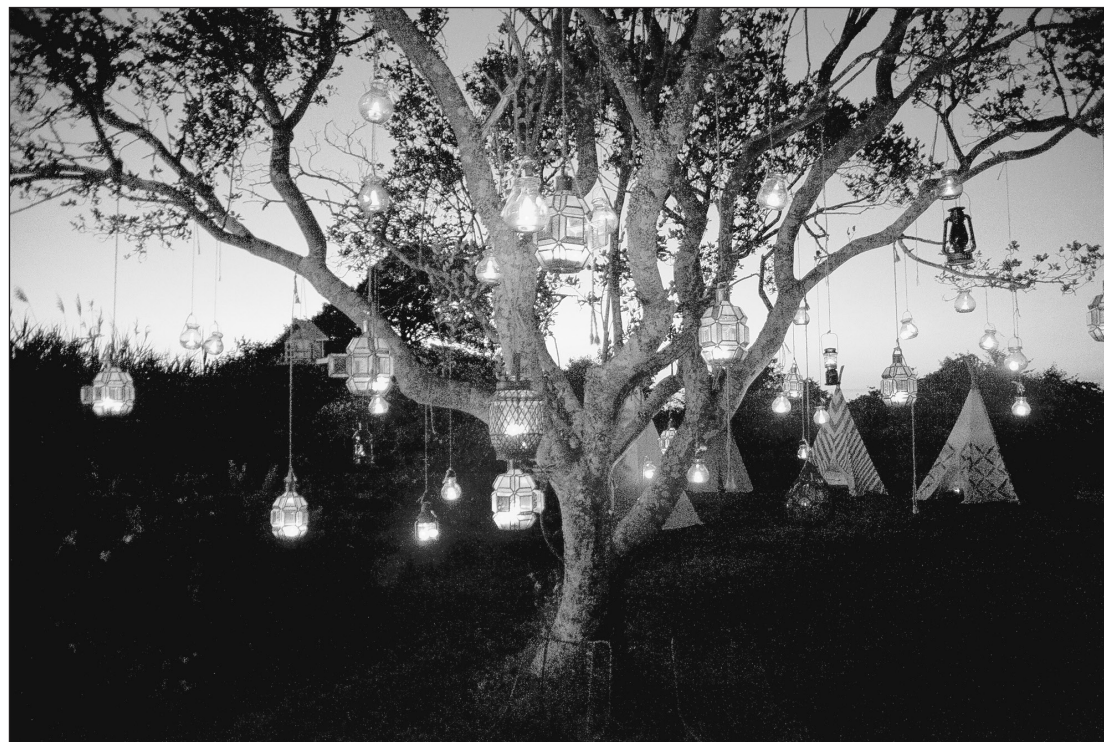
“We learned to think on our feet, to make something shiny and fantastic and still sort of authentic,” Richard Christiansen said. “It was all very jazz hands,” he added, wagging his own.

The brothers began shopping in early spring for the accouterments to set the stage, with the help of Lena Kuffner, a production designer they have worked with in Los Angeles, who combed the flea markets there for crocheted bedspreads, Navajo blankets and surf-themed art books. The lawn chairs came from eBay, and cost from \$5 to \$500 each. They are seating for the movies that play on a canvas sheet hanging from a tree and weighted with nautical rope.

In heavy rotation last week was “I Am Love,” the overwrought Tilda Swinton vehicle. “I’m practicing my Italian,” said Richard Christiansen, who flew to Italy Sunday for work; Chandelier is helping to remake Amica, the Italian fashion magazine.

Christiansen asks that guests (mostly co-workers and their boyfriends and girlfriends, and a client or two) bring a bottle of wine and a movie; now, he said, the collection at the house ranges from “Clueless” to “Grey Gardens,” the remake, that is, starring Drew Barrymore. “I’m thinking we should rename the Surf Shack ‘Magenta Gardens,’” he said. If it all seems like an episode of “Portlandia,” the arch sendup of northern left coast culture featuring an ad agency where employees navigate Frisbee mazes and ideate in hot-air balloons, that’s no mistake. “The thing about most major ad agencies,” said Barbara Lippert, the former Adweek critic who is now curator of popular culture at Goodby, Silverstein & Partners in San Francisco, “is that they are designed to be like a weekend house.

You have basketball courts and coffee bars and bleachers with pillows so people can take naps. □



Lanterns hang in a tree, with teepees in the yard behind at the beach shack of Richard Christiansen in Montauk, N.Y., July 22, 2011. Christiansen created the Chandelier Surf Shack: a cedar A-frame rental built in the 1950s that portrays a weekend extension of his office and sleeps at least 20 people.

(Randy Harris/The New York Times)



Westin Art Gallery exhibits local artist Danilo Geerman

For the next two months, the Westin Art Gallery is the proud host of an exhibition by Aruban artist Danilo Geerman titled "Transmu-



Come back of popular event 'Aruba Night' at the Alhambra Casino

Punta Brabo: Alhambra Casino is back with the event very much liked among locals and visitors which is the Aruba Night. The first Aruba Night for 2011 will take place this Saturday, July 30th, and will continue every last Saturday of the month until November of this year. There will be snacks and a welcome drink. Las Estrellas group and caha di orgel of Armando Boekhoudt are ready to delight our guests with cultural music.

Despite the constructions going on, Alhambra still wants everybody to have some fun during this event. However, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Come have a good time, enjoy the good music this Saturday, July 30th at the Alhambra Casino. □

tation." Danilo Geerman is an accomplished local artist with seven successful solo shows to his credit and several group exhibitions in Aruba and Holland. The newest collection opened to the public in the Palm Beach resort on Thursday evening, July 21, with an appreciative analysis by noted artist and teacher, Nigel Matthew. He pointed out how appropriate is the name of this present exhibit as it reflects extensive personal evolution on the part of the artist since he first began showing his work in 1986. This is Danilo's first solo show since "Between Heaven & Earth" in 2008 at the Toyota Gallery. He continues to explore a surrealist style which captured his creativity a few years ago

and revealed with a solo show titled "Tree of Life" at Access Art Gallery in 2007. In his dissertation on the subject, Danilo describes the origins of the world transmutation "the altering of one species into another," as coined by Jean Baptiste Lamarck in 1809, and that transmutation and transformation are words often interchanged. A number of the works could be interpreted as cells or objects going through such a process, but the concept has greater significance applied to Danilo's creative journey; a journey Nigel asserts is evident in this newest collection. The Westin Gallery is open 24/7, just next to the concierge desk in the main lobby of the resort. A gallery representative is



present every Wednesday and Friday in the late afternoon if wishing to purchase one of the works, or call 743-4080 or 587-0004 for inquiries. □



First weekend of new mussels at Papillon Restaurant was a major success



ORANJESTAD - The 2011 crop of mussels, flown in for the first time last Thursday afternoon and served fresh as can be at Papillon restaurant, has been a big hit. The season has started for real now and a weekly order of the shells with their delicious contents will be made to supply the demand for them. As the rush is on, guests are advised to mention that they wish to order a pot of mussels when making reservations.

The 'Zeeuwse' mussels are a seasonal delicacy that many people in Holland and Belgium are anticipating every year. The mussels are served in traditional black, shiny pots that are brimming with mussels in their shell.

The mussel season has started a bit later than normal because of the dry spring weather in Holland. This underlines the fact that mussels are a natural product and that the weather plays a huge role in their growth cycle. Mussel growers have started bringing their new crop slowly but surely to market; in batches, so that everyone will get the chance to sample the 2011 mussels.

The verdict on this year's crop is very good: they are a little bit smaller in size, but their excellent taste makes up for that. You will have to taste them yourself to see whether you agree. Mussel lovers on Aruba have

been in good company, by the way: the world's top cyclists of the Tour de France were treated to them on their day of rest before the grand finale in Paris. They loved them!

Papillon's chef will be preparing the mussels in two ways: the traditional and the local way. The classic, traditional way is with all the trimmings: boiled and steeped in French white wine with a garnish of fresh vegetables like finely cut onions, celery, parsley and black, freshly ground pepper and thyme. These traditional mussels are served with French bread, a salad and a choice of potatoes: French fries or new potatoes. The other way is the 'manera local': with Aruba's locally brewed Balashi beer, funchi instead of French bread and a choice of potatoes and a salad. Funchi is a local staple food.

Mussels are fantastically healthy: they contain hardly any cholesterol at all, are rich in vitamins and good fatty acids. The 'Zeeuwse Mosselen' are world famous: they are tasty and chewy.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across from the Radisson Resort on the hi-rise strip. For reservations, please surf to www.papillonaruba.com or call 586-5400. □



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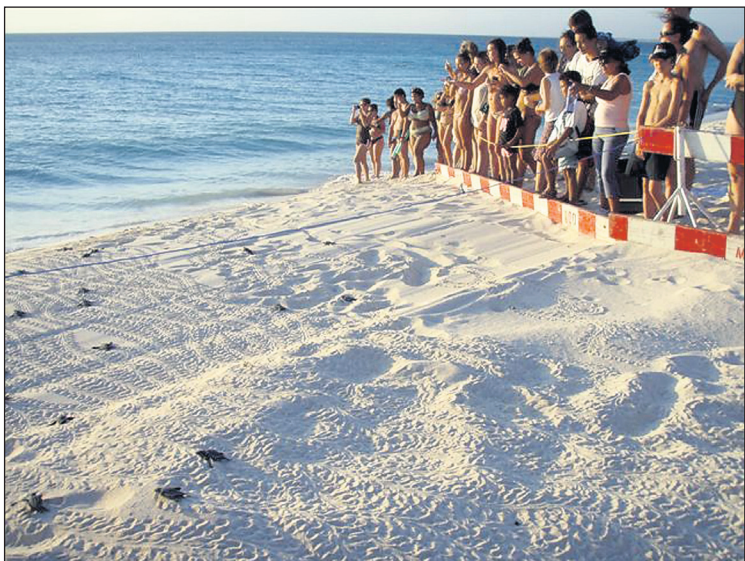
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Beauty on the beach



Sunday afternoon it is rather crowded on Eagle beach. And not only people. Just before sunset a group of



67 Leatherback Sea Turtle hatchlings breaks free from the nest in front of Le Dome. The emergence of a turtle nest is surprising: all at once the entire group wells up, it looks like a fountain. Within half an hour all tiny hatchlings have gone. They swim just beneath the surface of the sea, because they have to breathe regularly. As fast as they can they swim away from the coast to the open ocean, where are less predators (fishes, birds) that will eat them. Just 1 out of 1000 hatchlings will reach maturity and if that one happens to be a female, she will return to the beach where she herself was born to lay her eggs. The first time will be after 20 – 25 years. (That long it takes for a Leatherback Sea Turtle to reach maturity!)

A lot of pictures were taken Sunday afternoon, light conditions were excellent! If hatching takes place at twilight or after sunset, at night, please do not use any lights and absolutely NO FLASH photography. Hatchlings are disoriented by artificial lights and will not find the sea anymore. Do not touch the hatchlings. They have to make their own way to the sea in order to remember the location of their native beach at adulthood. To report any turtle activity, please call Turtle Hotline 5929393.

Info: turtugaruba@hotmail.com



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Lochte sets 1st world record since suit ban

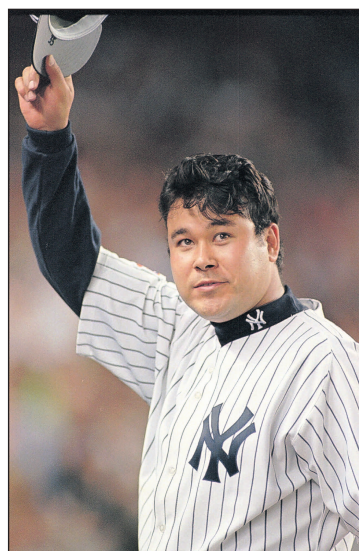
Ryan Lochte of the U.S. celebrates after winning the men's 200m Individual Medley final with a new world record of 1 minutes 54.00 seconds at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Shanghai, China, Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this July 10, 1997 file photo, New York Yankees' Hideki Irabu tips his cap to the crowd after he was taken out of the game in the sixth inning against the Detroit Tigers in New York.

Associated Press

Former Yankees pitcher Hideki

Irabu found dead

ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former New York Yankees pitcher Hideki Irabu was found dead, an apparent suicide in the wealthy suburb of Rancho Palos Verdes.

County sheriff's Sgt. Michael Arriaga confirmed Thursday that the 42-year-old Irabu was "found dead by an apparent suicide" the previous evening.

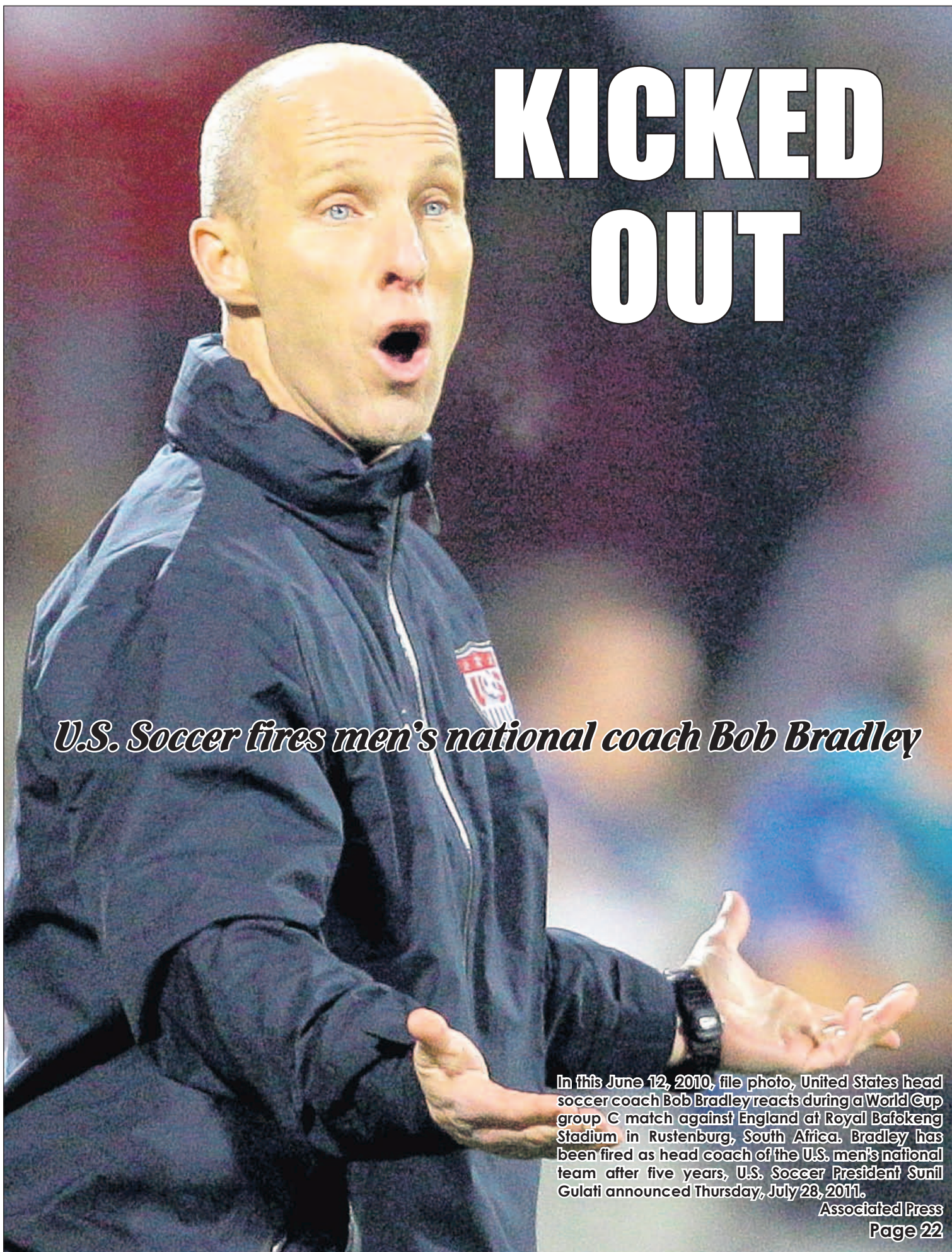
Los Angeles County coroner's official Ed Winter said his office was not releasing any circumstances of the death other than it was being investigated as a suicide. The autopsy will be performed Friday or Saturday.

Neighbors described Irabu as a quiet, unassuming man who had apparently grown despondent recently because of a split with his wife.

Continued on page 21

KICKED OUT

U.S. Soccer fires men's national coach Bob Bradley



In this June 12, 2010, file photo, United States head soccer coach Bob Bradley reacts during a World Cup group C match against England at Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg, South Africa. Bradley has been fired as head coach of the U.S. men's national team after five years, U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati announced Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Associated Press
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Lochte sets 1st world record since suit ban

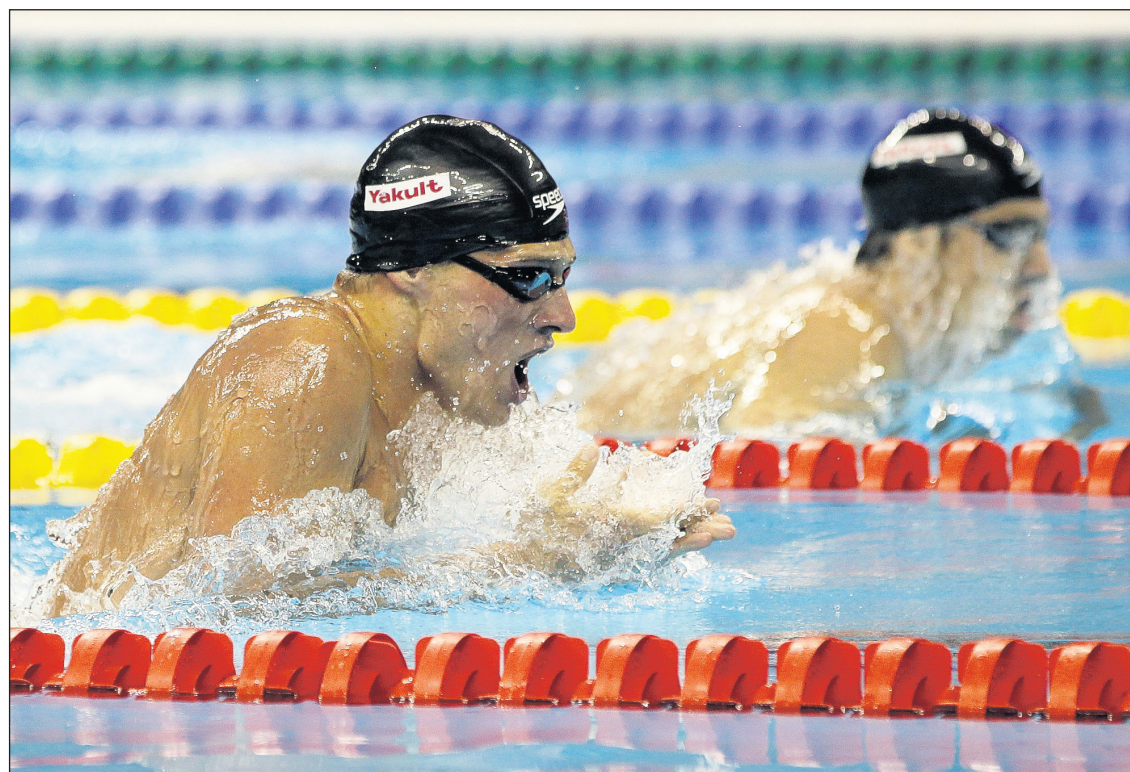
ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — Ryan Lochte has not only beaten Michael Phelps in consecutive races — he has taken swimming to a new level. The laid-back American edged Phelps for gold in the 200-meter individual medley at the world championships Thursday, setting the first world record since high-tech bodysuits were banned at the start of last year.

With Phelps putting pressure on in the final freestyle lap, Lochte sprinted to the wall and touched in 1 minute, 54.00 seconds — improving on his old mark of 1:54.10 set at the last worlds in Rome two years ago when polyurethane suits were still in use.

"I wanted to do something that everyone thought was impossible," Lochte said. "Since they banned those suits, everyone thought a world record would never get touched again. I just wanted to show everyone that can happen. That's why we have records — they're meant to get broken.



Ryan Lochte, left, of the U.S. leads compatriot Michael Phelps on the way to winning the men's 200m Individual Medley final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Shanghai, China, Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Associated Press

"Hopefully everyone now can start realizing that, 'Hey, it's possible,' so hopefully a lot more records will fall."

Phelps settled for silver in 1:54.16 and Laszlo Cseh of Hungary took bronze in 1:57.69.

Meanwhile, budding Aus-

tralian standout James Magnussen won the 100 freestyle — swimming's signature event. Already dubbed the "Missile Magnussen" by Australian media, the 20-year-old took the lead from defending champion Cesar Cielo after 50 meters and touched

in 47.63 seconds.

Phelps won the 200 IM at the last two Olympics and at three consecutive worlds between 2003 and 2007. He did not enter the medleys in Rome, when Lochte won. While sportsmanlike — he shook hands with Lochte immediately after the race,

Phelps was not happy.

"That one frustrated me more than anything," the 14-time Olympic champion said. "I thought I was going to get that one."

Cseh took silver between Phelps and Lochte in both the 200 and 400 IMs at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, giving him close perspective on how Lochte has gained the upper hand.

"I think without Michael he can't beat the world record," Cseh said. "He needs Michael to swim together and race against each other and I think this is a good thing."

Lochte also beat Phelps in the 200 freestyle in both Americans' opening individual event Tuesday. Lochte has two more events and Phelps one, although they will not go head-to-head again.

Phelps came into this meet with just six months of training, while Lochte has never let up since Beijing.

"He's really done all the little small things right," Phelps said. "He has more comfortable speed now than he had before. He's super focused. He's just more prepared. Things are always won by people who are most prepared. ... To go faster than he did in 2009 is incredible."

Lochte also set two world records at the short-course worlds in Dubai in December, the only other individual marks set over the last 19 months, although swimming prefers to measure itself in the 50-meter Olympic-sized pool.

A record 43 marks fell at the 2009 worlds, and with only three more days remaining, it was starting look like this meet might end without a single record. But Lochte changed all that, and even produced an uncharacteristic celebration, pumping his fist and waving to the crowd when he emerged from the pool as colored lights flashed inside the Oriental Sports Center.

"Anytime you break a world record, you got to be excited," the Floridian said. "I trained hard and it paid off." □

Sharapova tops Hantuchova, makes Stanford quarters

STANFORD, California (AP)

— Second-seeded Maria Sharapova set up a possible quarterfinal match with Serena Williams by beating Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 Wednesday at the Bank of the West Classic.

The fifth-ranked Sharapova, who reached the Wimbledon final, questioned an out call that would have ended the match. She regrouped and won the next two points to set up the possible match between two former world No. 1s.

"It's still about improving the little things to get more consistent," Sharapova said. "I've had to make a lot of tough choices in the last year but I'm going in the right direction and, little by little, those choices are paying off."

Williams, playing in her first tournament on American soil since the 2009 U.S. Open, meets Maria Kirilen-

ko on Thursday afternoon.

"I've lost to both of them the last time I played them," Sharapova said. "You can never rest against Serena. She hasn't played in quite a while but she's still a great competitor."

At the end of the day she has 13 Grand Slam titles and I have three. That says a lot. Maria can produce great tennis and beat top players."

Sharapova got off to a slow start against Hantuchova before finishing strong in the first set.

"Then I kind of lost it," Sharapova said. "I got away from what I was doing well and she had all the confidence and all the momentum going into the third set."

Hantuchova grabbed a 2-0 lead in the third set before Sharapova regained the momentum and won four straight games to finish it off.



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, serves to Daniela Hantuchova, of Slovakia, during the Bank of the West tennis tournament in Stanford, Calif., Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Sharapova won the match 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Associated Press

"I was frustrated by the fact I wasn't able to maintain what I was doing into the second set," Sharapova said. "I was able to break her back and got the energy going again." Hantuchova knew that was the turning point.

"Leading 2-0 in the third set, that next game was crucial," Hantuchova said. "She went on that unbelievable run and that's where it changed a little bit. Even though I wasn't playing my best tennis, I still felt like I had so many chances." □

Woods to end 3-month layoff at Firestone

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— Tiger Woods finally gets back to golf next week at the Bridgestone Invitational, ending an 11-week break to heal injuries to his left leg. Woods used his website to announce his return on Thursday.

He posted on his Twitter account that he's "feeling fit and ready to tee it up at Firestone next week. Excited to get back out there!"

It marks the third-longest layoff of his career, only this time Woods returns with as much uncertainty about his future as ever.

Along with questions about the strength of his left knee and Achilles', he embarks on his latest comeback with a new caddie, and without guarantees Woods will be eligible for more than two weeks.

Woods last month fired Steve Williams, who caddied for Adam Scott at the U.S. Open, then angered his boss by working for the Australian again at

the AT&T National without seeking permission.

Woods has plunged to No. 21 in the world — his lowest ranking since Jan. 26, 1997 — and has gone more than 20 months since last winning the Australian Masters on Nov. 15, shortly before he was exposed for having multiple extramarital affairs that led to divorce.

He last played May 12 at The Players Championship, when he withdrew after going 6 over on the front nine because of recurring pain in his left leg. He has said he would not compete again until he was fully healed.

How long he lasts might depend more than just his leg, however.

By missing three months, including the last two majors, Woods has gone from No. 81 to No. 133 in the FedEx Cup standings. Only the top 125 players qualify for the opening round of the playoffs at The Barclays, likely leaving him only the Bridgestone Invitational and the PGA

Championship next week to make up ground. Otherwise, he would have at least five weeks off without being able to play on the PGA Tour.

At least he is returning to a friendly course — Woods has won seven times at Firestone, matching the most he has won on any course as a pro.

However, he was at his low point on the course in the Bridgestone Invitational last year when he finished 78th in an 80-man field.

Before that, Woods had never finished out of the top five.

Woods missed the second half of the 2008 season following reconstructive knee surgery, then sat out five months after crashing his car into a fire hydrant on Thanksgiving night in 2009, changing his career on and off the golf course. His image shattered, he lost four major corporate endorsements and still has not found an endorsement for his bag. □



In his March 10, 2000 file photo, Montreal Expos Hideki Irabu pitches against the St. Louis Cardinals during a spring training baseball game in Jupiter, Fla.

Associated Press

Irabu
Continued from page 17

Mary Feuerlicht said she was about to go pick up her son on Wednesday morning when a man came running down the driveway from Irabu's large two-story home, perched atop a hill with views of the harbor and downtown Los Angeles, pleading with her to call police.

Feuerlicht said she was later told by sheriff's deputies and the man who asked

her for help that Irabu's wife had left him and took their two young daughters. "When I saw him for the past month or so he seemed kind of down," she said. "He wasn't kind of perky like I've seen him before."

Former major league manager Bobby Valentine, now an ESPN broadcaster, managed Irabu in Japan in 1995. Valentine said he got the news Thursday when it came across on his mobile phone.

"I got a little sick to my stomach, actually," he said. Irabu was billed as the Japanese version of Nolan Ryan when he arrived in the United States in 1997. But after an impressive major league debut with the Yankees that summer, he never came close to fulfilling such lofty expectations.

"He was a world-class pitcher. When Nolan Ryan saw him he said he had never seen anything like it," Valentine said. "There were just some days when he was as good a pitcher as I had ever seen. A fabulous arm."

Irabu finished 34-35 with a 5.15 ERA in three seasons with the Yankees, two years in Montreal and a final season in the Texas bullpen in 2002. He was a member of two Yankees teams that won the World Series, but his only postseason action was a single relief appearance in the 1999 AL championship series when Boston tagged him for 13 hits. □



This May 12, 2011, file photo, shows Tiger Woods hit from the second fairway during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament, from which he withdrew after nine holes, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

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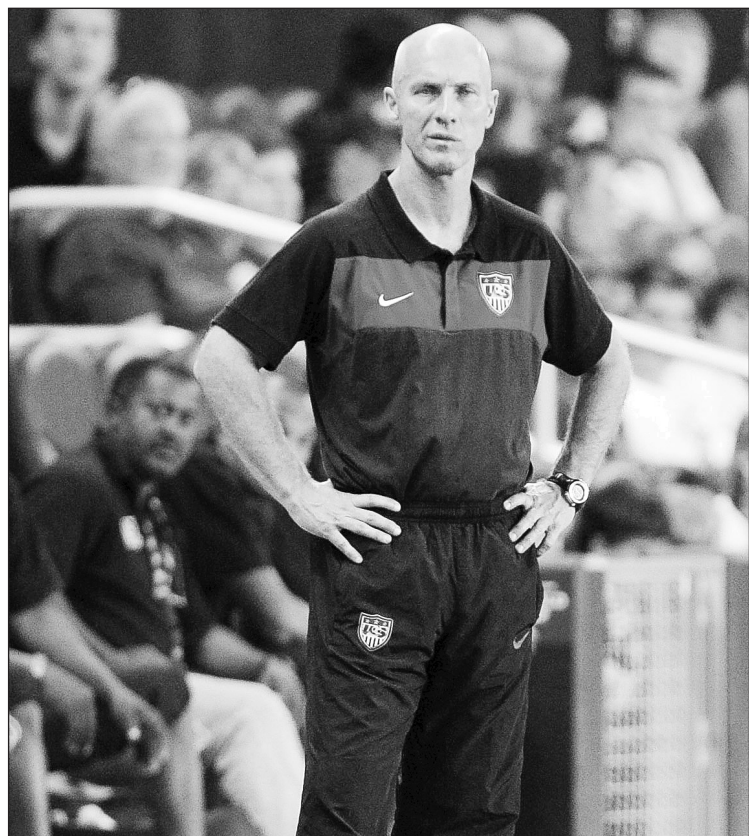
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Mon - Thurs 2:10 / 4:25 / 6:40 / 8:55
Fri - Sat 2:10 / 4:25 / 6:40 / 8:55 / 11:10
Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:25 / 6:40 / 8:55

STARTING NEXT WEEK AUGUST 4 - GREEN LANTERN: 3D

US Soccer fires men's national coach Bob Bradley



In this June 14, 2011 file photo, United States coach Bob Bradley watches his team during the second half of a Gold Cup soccer match against Guadeloupe in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press

CHRIS JENKINS
AP Sports Writer

For U.S. fans, the scene was tough to watch: archrival Mexico celebrating a Gold

Cup victory on American soil, cheered on by a largely pro-Mexico crowd at the Rose Bowl.

A little more than a month

later, Bob Bradley has been fired as coach of the U.S. men's team.

Bradley led the team to big moments during his tenure, including Landon Donovan's heart-stopping goal to secure a place in the round of 16 at last year's World Cup in South Africa and an unforgettable victory over Spain in 2009.

But to some, the disappointing Gold Cup loss to a Mexico team that seems to be on the upswing was another sign that the U.S. team's progress has stalled under Bradley.

"We want to thank Bob Bradley for his service and dedication to U.S. Soccer during the past five years," Gulati said in a statement. "During his time as the head coach of our Men's National Team he led the team to a number of accomplishments, but we felt now was the right time for us to make a change. It is

always hard to make these decisions, especially when it involves someone we respect as much as Bob. We wish him the best in his future endeavors."

Now another coach will be given the chance to lead the Americans into another World Cup qualifying cycle beginning next year. The next World Cup is in Brazil in 2014.

With a Mexico rematch looming, an Aug. 10 friendly in Philadelphia, U.S. Soccer likely will move quickly to select Bradley's replacement. The federation said it will have a "further announcement" on Friday but did not provide details. The United States has long been linked with a move for Juergen Klinsmann, former coach and player for the German national team.

Bradley was given a new deal last summer only after Gulati reached an oral agreement with Klinsmann

but the sides then were unable to put the deal in writing.

"Verbally we agreed on that the technical side is my side, and I should have a 100 percent control of it," Klinsmann said in September. "Written terms, they couldn't commit to it. At that point I said, 'Well then, I can't get the job done because I have to have the last say as a head coach for my entire staff, for all the players issues, for everything that happens with the team.'"

Gulati and Klinsmann also held talks in 2006 before Bradley was hired to replace Bruce Arena.

Klinsmann, who lives in southern California, scored 11 World Cup goals from Germany from 1990-98, then coached the hosts to third place in the 2006 World Cup.

Other foreign coaches might be in the mix. And the federation also might consider an up-and-coming coach in MLS, Real Salt Lake's Jason Kreis. Another potential dark horse candidate, Seattle Sounders coach Sigi Schmid, said he hasn't been contacted.

"I think any coach in this country, especially someone who has coached in America for a long time, would have an interest in coaching the national team," Schmid said in a teleconference.

"I think that's going to be a yes answer from any American coach that you ask.

But at the end of the day, is it the right thing? Is it the right time? Where are you coming from? Where are you at? All of that affects that ultimate decision. What I can tell you is I'm very happy where I'm at. I love the Sounders."

The next competitive match for the U.S. will be the start of World Cup qualifying in June. □

Haynesworth, Bush, Kolb headed to new teams

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Pro Football Writer |

There goes Albert Haynesworth, heading from Mike Shanahan's Redskins to Bill Belichick's Patriots. Reggie Bush? The Saints sent him to the Dolphins. And the Kevin Kolb saga is ending the way pretty much everyone expected, with a trade from the Eagles to the Cardinals. NFL clubs made a move a minute Thursday — and that trio of big-name deals was only the beginning.

Day 3 of the compressed, post-lockout offseason also included more contract agreements and plenty of cuts, which teams were finally allowed to start announcing at 4:01 p.m. ET. Among the players getting released were Vince Young by the Titans, Nate Clements by the 49ers, and Jake Delhomme by the Browns. In the first dramatic example of how the new labor

deal's rookie salary system will affect elite players, No. 2 overall draft pick Von Miller got about \$21 million over four years from the Denver Broncos. The No. 2 pick in 2010, Detroit Lions defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh, signed a five-year deal worth \$40 million guaranteed and as much as \$68 million overall.

Broncos football chief John Elway tweeted, "We have agreed to terms with our 1st round pick, LB Von Miller. Can't wait to get him on the field." In the Kolb deal, Philadelphia received cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and a 2012 second-round draft pick from Arizona, which was in need of a starting quarterback. Kolb had lost the Eagles' No. 1 QB job to Michael Vick and wanted a chance to lead a team. Kolb, who turns 27 next month, reportedly will get



In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, Washington Redskins defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth looks on before the start of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

a \$63 million, five-year contract with the Cardinals. Rodgers-Cromartie, who went to the Pro Bowl in 2009, will play opposite four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel in Philadelphia, shoring up a pass defense that struggled last season. All Washington got for Haynesworth, meanwhile, was a 2013 fifth-round pick. By shipping the defensive tackle to New England, the Redskins rid themselves

of a two-year distraction and fiasco of a free-agent signing — Haynesworth was guaranteed a then-record \$41 million in the seven-year, \$100 million contract he signed in the early hours of free agency in 2009. On the same day, he infamously declared: "You're not going to remember Albert Haynesworth as a bust." Hmhmhmhm. Haynesworth played in only 20 games for Washington. □

Ghana eradicates Guinea worm after 23-year fight



A guinea worm is extracted by a health worker from a child's foot at a containment center in Savelugu, Ghana. Jimmy Carter watched in horror as the inches-long worm emerged from the breast of a woman in remote northern Ghana. That was in the 1980s. The former U.S. president dedicated himself to eradicating the sickness and estimated it would take 10 years. On Thursday, July 28, 2011, after 23 years of hard work and major setbacks, Ghana finally declared victory.

(AP Photo/Olivier Asselin, File)

FRANCIS KOKUTSE
Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — Jimmy Carter watched in horror as the inches- (centimeters-) long worm emerged from the breast of a woman in remote northern Ghana. That was in the 1980s. The former U.S. president dedicated himself to eradicating the sickness and estimated it would take 10 years.

On Thursday, after 23 years of hard work and a major setback, Ghana finally declared victory.

"Ghana's triumph over Guinea worm disease serves as a reminder to the world and the remaining endemic countries that the greatest challenges can be overcome with hard work, political commitment, and the support of the international community," Carter said in a statement from the Atlanta-based Carter Center.

At a celebration in Ghana's northern Tamale city, Vice President John Mahama announced that the West African nation has completed 14 consecutive months reporting no indigenous cases, indicating that the cycle of Guinea worm disease, or dracunculiasis, has been broken. Ghana had 180,000 cases in 1989.

By 2005, it had only a few hundred. Then, in January 2007, more than 1,000 new cases were reported in northern Ghana, in what Carter called "our worst disappointment" of the international campaign.

Guinea worm eggs lodge in a microscopic water flea, which people swallow with untreated water, usually at sources that they share with animals and where they bathe, wash clothes and collect drinking water. So the disease attacks the poorest of the poor.

The eggs live in abdominal tissue where they hatch and mate. A year later, the worm starts emerging, most often through legs and feet and measuring a yard (meter) and more, in a process so painful it can stop people from working for three months.

To relieve the fiery pain, victims put a foot in water, and the worm emerges and breeds. Just one worm can discharge a million eggs.

So hundreds of people can use a dam safely and one child can ruin the communal effort.

Guinea worm does not kill and there is no treatment or vaccine. Instead, water filters are distributed, a mild pesticide kills the flea carrier in water holes, and villagers are counseled to drink only safe water and stay out of infected water.

Carter said Ghana's setback was caused by putting too little emphasis on these simple steps, and instead focusing on providing expensive water systems. □

Restless leg syndrome's link to heart problem is questioned

SAMANTHA BUNN

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Before this past spring, few people knew much about restless legs syndrome, even those who were dealing with twitching legs during the day and night.

But after doctors at the Mayo Clinic, in Scottsdale, Ariz., released a study connecting increased risk of heart attacks or stroke to the neurological condition categorized by the constant need to continuously move around in order to obtain relief from uncomfortable sensations in the legs, people suddenly took notice.

The study found that the restless legs syndrome, or RLS, could be linked to a heart condition known as left ventricular hypertrophy, which causes the wall of the heart to become thicker, making it harder for the heart to pump blood. People who suffer from RLS tend to also suffer from sleep deprivation, which can trigger adrenaline hormones, causing an increase in heart rate and blood pressure while the body should be at rest.

However, cardiologists are questioning the connection.

Dr. Stuart Zarich, Chief Cardiologist at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, Conn. said, "This report has not been corroborated by others or systematically studied. It has also not been published in any major journal to date. I would consider this currently an interesting observation that awaits further study."

Dr. Michael Martinelli, of St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, N.Y., agreed.

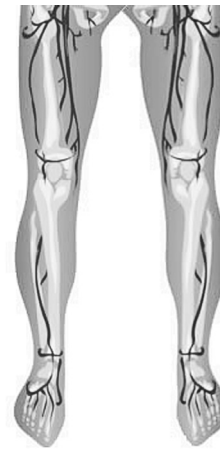
"It raises more questions than answers. But you can't say based on that [study] that you can link the two," he said.

When the study came out in April, it was estimated that 12 million Americans, most of whom are over the age of 40, could have the syndrome.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, RLS can

take one of two forms: a primary condition, which is genetic, and a secondary, which can be triggered or made worse by certain medications or lifestyle issues.

Gary Gershon, 66, of Duaneburg, N.Y., didn't realize what the severe tension in his legs meant until he was diagnosed with RLS in the early 1990s. He had accepted his symptoms, which were usually triggered in the evening or by exhaustion, as just another part of his life, after watching his father go through the same experience.



"I remember when I was much younger I could hear my father in the other side of the house pounding on his legs, but back then nobody knew what restless leg syndrome was," he said.

After Gershon took part in a sleep study, he started receiving treatment for RLS from Dr. Francisco J. Gomez, chief of the division of neurology at Ellis Medicine in Schenectady, N.Y.

Symptoms of RLS are commonly misdiagnosed as being caused by insomnia, nervousness, stress or even muscle cramps. However, intensity or specificity of the symptoms sets the syndrome apart from other health issues.

When Gomez has patients who come in with symptoms similar to RLS, he differentiates the symptoms between those who may have RLS and those who may have similar conditions, like periodic leg movements during sleep.

"The main differentiation between restless legs syndrome, PLMS and nerve

damage happens to be [in] the way the symptoms present themselves," Gomez said. "People with restless legs will usually have lots of muscle action and constant sensations in their legs throughout the day." These symptoms are different from patients with nerve damage in their legs, or patients who feel uncomfortable sensations only while sleeping, which is a trait of PLMS.

RLS occurs in both men and women; however, it is twice as common among women and in people over 40. Common health triggers of RLS include:

- Increased use of caffeine, alcohol or tobacco.
- Untreated iron-deficient anemia.
- Sleep deprivation.
- Increased use of antidepressant medication.

Currently there is no permanent medicinal treatment known to consistently treat RLS.

Doctors like Gomez may prescribe drugs such as Requip, which was prescribed to Gershon, and has improved his sleep pattern. Requip is often prescribed to treat patients with Parkinson's disease.

Yet, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has said that medications for RLS may lose their effect over time, and often a new one has to be prescribed.

While underlying factors such as stress can lead to heart health problems, it is too quick to tell if RLS has a true link to heart conditions. Those who think they may have RLS should consult with their physician and take steps to improve their day-to-day health.

TRAITS OF RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME

- An overwhelming urge to move the legs or feet at night when sleeping or while lying at rest
- A feeling of relief that comes with constant movement
- Twitching of the legs and feet only present at night and then absent in the morning. □



A Sprint logo is displayed on a store in Homestead, Pa., on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Sprint said Thursday, July 28, its loss widened in the second quarter due to investment losses and a tax expense, but its subscriber figures showed a fragile turnaround continuing.

Associated Press

Sprint posts wider loss, teams with LightSquared

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sprint Nextel Corp. on Thursday said its loss widened in the second quarter as it spent more to attract and keep customers, in the face of competition from AT&T and Verizon.

The extra spending meant that Sprint kept adding subscribers, continuing a fragile turnaround, but investors disliked a decline in operating income and sent the stock down sharply. Sprint shares fell 64 cents, or 12.4 percent, to \$4.52 in premarket trading.

The No. 3 U.S. wireless carrier also announced that it will be building and operating the national wireless broadband network for LightSquared, a startup financed by a hedge fund. The deal has been rumored for some time.

LightSquared will pay Sprint \$9 billion over 11 years for the network. LightSquared, which has been struggling to come up with the money for a new network, said the deal lowers its own costs by more than \$13 billion over eight years.

The deal will help finance Sprint's own network upgrades. Sprint didn't say that it would sell devices that use LightSquared's network for faster downloads, but the deal gives Sprint \$4.5 billion in credits for use of LightSquared's network. □

AP Sources: Parts problem hurts Ford Focus sales



In this March 17, 2011 file photo, a line worker assembles a 2012 Ford Focus at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Mich. Ford Motor Co. can't build as many hot-selling Focus compacts as it wants to because of equipment problems at a parts factory, say two people familiar with the matter.

Associated Press

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford can't make enough Focus cars to keep up with rising demand because of equipment problems that have caused a shortage of dashboards, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Machinery that makes the skin that covers dashboards at a Ford parts factory outside Detroit works intermittently. That is forcing the company to take the unusual and costly step of flying in parts from Europe to keep its assembly lines moving, the people said. Despite those

efforts, the Focus plant near Detroit can't run at full speed, they said.

The problem comes at a time when high gas prices and shortages of Japanese small cars have driven up demand for the Focus. Dealers say they're having trouble getting the newly redesigned compacts, and they've been forced to put customers on waiting lists. The people, who didn't want to be identified because they're not authorized to speak about the matter, said Ford is working to fix the equipment problem at the parts plant in Saline, Michigan, but so far the company hasn't found a solution.

Ford spokesman Todd Nissen said company policy is not to comment on internal workings at its plants. But he said the Saline factory continues to make dashboards for the Focus.

Despite the problem, Ford sold more than 21,000 Focuses last month, making it the company's top-selling passenger car. But its sales were 3,500 below rival General Motors' Chevrolet Cruze compact. The Cruze is made at a factory in Lordstown, Ohio, that is operating three shifts around the clock to meet demand. Ford's assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan,

where the Focus is made, is running on two shifts.

GM has been better able to capitalize on small-car shortages at Honda and Toyota, which have had to slow their factories due to parts shortages caused by the March earthquake in Japan. GM and Ford have been largely unaffected by earthquake-related problems. It's unclear just how long it will take to fix the problem and whether Ford will raise Focus production. Mark Fields, Ford's president for the Americas, wouldn't comment last week but said the Focus plant is producing at a rate the company expected.

"For the most part, whenever you have a (new model) launch there are always some launch issues that you deal with," he said. "I won't say it's been flawless, but the good news is there's a lot of demand for it and we'll continue to get those cars out."

Jim Gillette, an analyst with the firm IHS Automotive who advises auto parts suppliers, said the problem could hit Ford's bottom line because it's expensive to fly in the parts. He said it is relatively rare to have such an equipment problem, and there would be a lot of pressure on the equipment maker to fix it quickly. □

Motorola Mobility disappoints on smartphones

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc., the maker of cellphones and cable set-top boxes that split off from the rest of Motorola in January, posted a loss for the latest quarter and forecast earnings for the current quarter well below analyst expectations.

Strong sales of regular phones in China and Latin America helped Motorola exceed Wall Street's revenue forecast. But smartphones are the linchpin of the company's turnaround strategy.

Motorola Mobility shipped 4.4 million smartphones in the quarter, an increase from 2.7 million a year earlier. Analysts were looking for a higher number to prove Motorola can hold its own against

bigger competitors like Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics.

The Libertyville, Ill.-based company's shares fell \$1.21, or 5.3 percent, to \$21.70 in extended trading Thursday after the company reported its quarterly results. That's approaching \$20.77, their lowest level since the company split from the old Motorola Inc. Jan. 4.

Motorola Mobility posted a loss of \$56 million, or 19 cents per share, for April through June. That compares with a profit of \$80 million a year earlier.

Excluding the costs of stock-based compensation and amortization of intangible assets, Motorola turned a profit of 9 cents per share, 2 cents more than analysts expected, according to FactSet. □

Applications for unemployment aid drop below 400K

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level since early April, a sign the job market may be healing after a recent slump.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications fell 24,000 to a seasonally adjusted 398,000. That's the first time applications have fallen below 400,000 in 16 weeks.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, dropped to 413,750, the lowest since the week of April 23.

Stocks rose after the report was released.

Economists cautioned that the lower level only reflects one week of data and that doesn't necessarily signal a trend. The drop "is clearly good news," said Joshua Shapiro, an economist at MFR Inc. Still, "we would prefer to see further data before concluding that the

earlier downtrend in claims is being re-established."

Separately, the National Association of Realtors said more people signed contracts to buy homes in June for the second straight month. But the increase was not enough to signal a rebound in the weak housing market.

The Realtors group said its index of sales agreements for previously occupied homes rose 2.4 percent in June to a reading of 90.9. The gain and an 8.2 percent increase in May did not make up for a huge drop-off in April when contract signings had fallen 11.3 percent.

A reading of 100 is considered healthy by economists. The last time the index reached that level was in April 2010, the final month when buyers could qualify for a federal tax credit.

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits remains higher than would be expected in a healthy economy. Con-



In this July 26, 2011 photo, workers seeking employment create resumes and look for open positions on lap tops provided by USAJobs at a job fair for space workers and those workers that lost jobs due to the end of the space shuttle program in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

Business Briefs

Deutsche Boerse Q2 profit up \$258 M

BERLIN (AP) — German stock market operator Deutsche Boerse says its second quarter sales dipped slightly but net profit rose by 11 percent to €179 million (\$258 million) from €161 million a year earlier.

The company said Thursday a decline in revenues of 6 percent from €564 million to €529 million due to lower equity market volatility was compensated through "rigorous cost discipline."

Deutsche Boerse AG is set to merge with New York Stock Exchange operator NYSE Euronext, creating the world's largest exchange operator.

It says total costs were down by 19 percent from €356 million to €289 million, including costs of €19 million stemming from the planned merger.

Deutsche Boerse runs the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, while NYSE Euronext also owns bourses in Paris, Lisbon, Brussels and Amsterdam. □

Tablet production will spur innovation

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil says the planned production of tablet computers will help spur technological innovation in Latin America's biggest country.

Brazil has signed agreements with at least 10 companies that make tablets. One of them is with Taiwanese manufacturer Foxconn, which is expected to start producing Apple Inc.'s iPads later

this year in Brazil. Science and Technology Minister Aloizio Mercadante said Thursday that the tablet production should lead to the production of touch-screen monitors and semiconductors. Mercadante added that government tax breaks will attract semiconductor manufacturers to Brazil and make it the first nation in the Western Hemisphere to produce touch-screen monitors. □

sumers are holding back on spending because of stagnant wages, high unemployment, tighter credit, and depressed home prices. That's restraining economic growth.

Unemployment applications had fallen in February to 375,000, a level that signals healthy job growth. But they then surged to an eight-month high of 478,000 in April and have declined only slowly since then.

Some of the drop likely reflects seasonal volatility. Applications were elevated earlier this month partly because of temporary layoffs in the auto and other manufacturing industries, which are ending. Many auto companies close their factories in early July to prepare for new models.

The total number of people receiving unemployment benefits, meanwhile, dipped to 3.7 million. That doesn't include millions of people receiving extended benefits under emergency programs enacted during the recession. All told, 7.65 million people received benefits in the week ended July 9, the latest data available. Analysts forecast that the economy grew in the April-June quarter by an annual rate of only 1.7 per-

cent, the second straight quarter of anemic expansion. The government reports on second-quarter growth Friday.

Hiring has slowed in recent months. The economy added only 18,000 net jobs in June. That's the fewest in nine months and below the average of 215,000 jobs per month that the economy added from February through April.

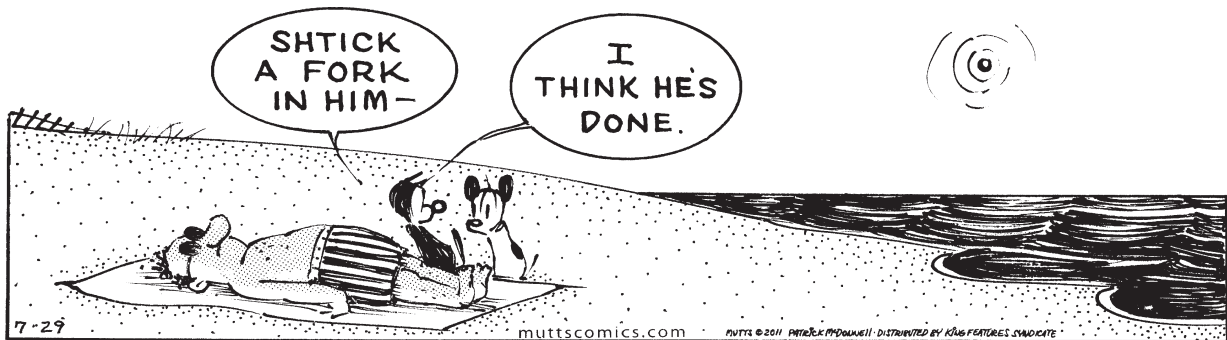
The unemployment rate rose to 9.2 percent last month, the highest level of the year.

Manufacturing had been a bright spot in the economy since the recession ended two years ago. But it has stumbled in recent months. Orders for long-lasting manufactured goods fell 2.1 percent in June, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. It was the second drop in three months. Economists had expected orders to increase, noting that temporary constraints have eased. In particular, gas prices have come down slightly since peaking in the spring. But manufacturing output has also been slowed by the Japan earthquake, which has disrupted global supply chains and created a parts shortage in the auto and

electronics industries.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and many private economists expect growth to pick up in the second half of this year, predicting those temporary factors will fade. Gas prices, for example, averaged \$3.70 a gallon on Wednesday, down from their peak of nearly \$4 in early May. But some are growing more concerned that the economy's weakness will persist. The Fed said Wednesday that its survey of economic activity found growth slowed in eight of its 12 regions in June and early July. The report, known as the Beige Book, was the weakest this year. Many economists are becoming more pessimistic about the second half of this year. Goldman Sachs recently cut its estimate for growth in the July-September period to 2.5 percent, down from 3.25 percent. JPMorgan, meanwhile, reduced its estimate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent. Growth of about 2.5 percent is barely enough to reduce the unemployment rate. The economy would need to grow 5 percent for a whole year to bring down the rate by one percentage point. □

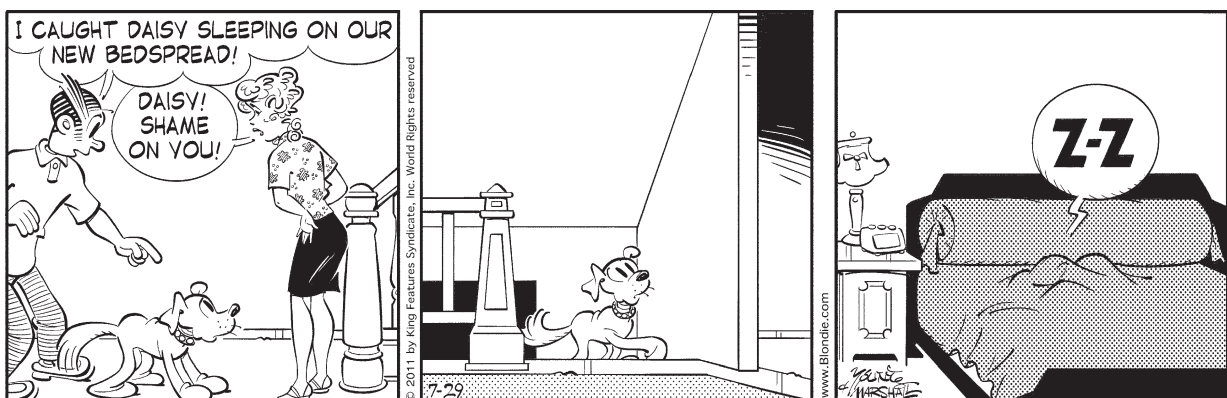
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3			5		8			4
		6		1		5		
9				8				3
		4	6	5	2	8		
6				9				7
		7		6		1		
5			7	4				2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	9	8	2	6	3	1	7	4
1	2	3	7	5	4	6	9	8
6	4	7	9	1	8	3	5	2
7	6	2	3	4	9	8	1	5
8	3	4	5	2	1	9	6	7
9	1	5	6	8	7	2	4	3
3	5	1	4	9	2	7	8	6
4	7	9	8	3	6	5	2	1
2	8	6	1	7	5	4	3	9

ACROSS

- four; tiny frosted cake
- Minute particle
- Mama Elliot
- Without companions
- Commanded
- Assist in crime
- Hand covering
- Sherman Hemley TV sitcom
- Femur or ulna
- Rough guess
- Stir up
- Popular detergent
- Child's vehicle
- Buddy
- Articles; things
- as a beet
- Waterbirds
- Rings, as a bell
- Skunk's defense
- Evans and Robertson
- Make a small cut
- Internal spies
- Very cold
- Go astray
- Grottoes
- Wiggle room
- Good student
- Duplicate
- Shown to be true
- Surrounded by armed forces
- Go skyward
- Sudden thought
- Transparent
- Of the U.S.A.
- Mediterranean and Caribbean
- Kid around with
- Actress Harper
- Roll call response
- Scatter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24								25				
26	27	28					29					
30				31		32			33	34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42				43		44			45		46	
47					48			49		50		
51	52	53						54				
55								56			57	58
59												
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

7/29/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CYD			SPREE		ACNE
HEAP			ALERT		SOUL
EAVE			MANIC		WALK
HEAD			PIECE		ILLS
			KILT		TAR
ANDICE			NEEDLESS		
MAINE			BOARD		ACE
BING			COBRA		OGRE
EVA			MEALS		WREAK
REHEARSE			CHARMS		
			IDA		CHAT
SLUG			MIGRATION		
NOSH			ISLES		OVAL
ABET			CNOTE		NEVE
GORY			SOWED		NET

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7/29/11

- Store event
- Draws a picture of
- Disappear
- Embroiderer's tiny hole
- "Jack ___ could eat no fat..."
- Arson or theft
- Rubber tubes
- Discontinue
- Carry
- ___ up; prepare
- Leisure
- Sketched
- Cee's follower

Today In History

Today is Friday July 29, the 210th day of 2011. There are 155 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1499 - Lepanto in Greece surrenders to forces of Turkey's Sultan.

1588 - The English defeat the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines.

1656 - Poles under John Casimir are defeated at Warsaw by combined Swedish-Brandenburg force.

1858 - United States and Japan sign their first commercial treaty.

1900 - Italy's King Humbert I is assassinated by an anarchist.

1914 - Transcontinental telephone service begins with the first phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

1980 - The biggest military operation of the year in El Salvador kills over 170 peasants and leftist guerrillas near the Honduran border. The guerrillas moved into northern Chalatenango Province and declared the area "free territory of El Salvador." The operation lasts four days.

1996 - China conducts a nuclear test but promises it will join a moratorium on further tests.

1997 - The waters off Minamata, Japan, are declared free of mercury 65 years after a local factory started dumping waste that caused one of the worst environmental disasters ever.

1998 - A former Cabinet minister of Spain and 11 others are convicted of kidnapping, concluding a trial that exposed the former government's role in death squads that targeted Basque separatists.

1999 - The first express passenger train between Amman, Jordan, and Damascus, Syria, begins service with six new trains.

2000 - A U.S. soldier, Staff Sgt. Frank J. Ronghi, pleads guilty to the murder and



Today is Martina McBride's birthday

decade rule. 2008 — The Bosnian war crimes court convicts seven Bosnian Serbs of genocide in the 1995 massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica, and hands down prison sentences ranging from 38 to 42 years. 2009 - Microsoft finally persuades Yahoo to surrender control of the Internet's second most popular search engine and join it in a daunting battle — taking on the overwhelming dominance of Google in the online advertising market. 2010 - Poll shows Pakistans have an overwhelmingly negative view of the United States despite billions in aid from Washington and a shared threat from extremists.

2003 - Sierra Leonean rebel leader Foday Sankoh, who had been in United Nations custody since 2000 and was awaiting trial on charges of mass murder and other crimes, dies at a hospital in Freetown after a stroke.

2006 - Sri Lanka's air force bombs Tamil Tiger rebel positions for a fourth day, killing seven rebels and wounding 14 in spiraling violence that threatened to drag the country back into full-blown civil war.

2007 - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party suffers a humiliating defeat in parliamentary elections, one of the Liberal Democratic Party's worst showings in its almost five-

decade rule. 2008 — The Bosnian war crimes court convicts seven Bosnian Serbs of genocide in the 1995 massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica, and hands down prison sentences ranging from 38 to 42 years. 2009 - Microsoft finally persuades Yahoo to surrender control of the Internet's second most popular search engine and join it in a daunting battle — taking on the overwhelming dominance of Google in the online advertising market. 2010 - Poll shows Pakistans have an overwhelmingly negative view of the United States despite billions in aid from Washington and a shared threat from extremists.

Today's Birthdays:

Alexis de Toqueville, French political scientist (1805-1859); Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator (1883-1945); Booth Tarkington, U.S. novelist (1869-1946), Sigmund Romberg, Hungarian-born composer (1887-1951); Dag Hammarskjold, Swedish U.N. Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1905-1961); Clara Bow, U.S. actress (1905-1965), Mikis Theodorakis, Greek composer (1925--); Peter Jennings, Canadian-born ABC newsman (1938-2005), Ken Burns, U.S. documentary filmmaker (1953--), Martina McBride, U.S. country singer (1966--).

Thought For Today:

The fellow who says he'll meet you halfway usually thinks he's standing on the dividing line — O.A. Battista, Canadian-born author-scientist. □

Classifieds

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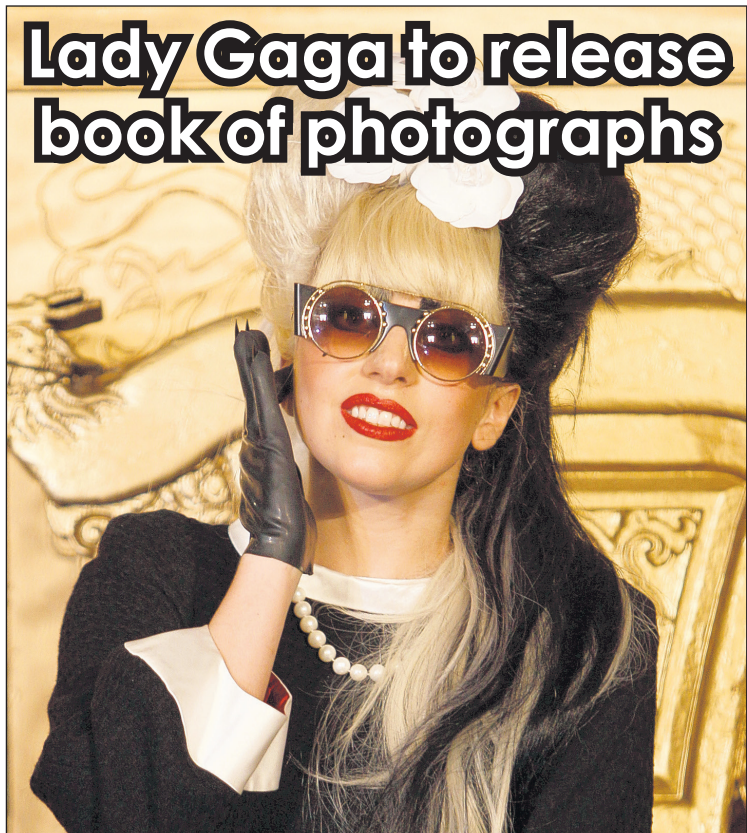
A black and white photograph of a man, likely a coach or manager, speaking at a press conference. He is wearing a dark baseball cap and a dark polo shirt. He is gesturing with both hands raised, palms facing forward. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is a large map, with the word 'SPAIN' clearly visible on the left side. The man has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right.

Associated Press

"So we are all about creating moments of discovery by trying to get a little lucky," he said. □

[illegible]

Lady Gaga to release book of photographs



Lady Gaga

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga will release a book of photographs with fashion photographer Terry Richardson.

Grand Central Publishing announced Thursday that it will release the book, "Lady Gaga," on Nov. 22. The publisher said the book will include more than 350 color and black-and-white photographs of Gaga.

Richardson followed the singer for 10 months between Aug. 2010 and Feb. 2011. That time period includes Lady Gaga's Monster Ball tour and the recording of her album "Born This Way."

Lady Gaga will write the book's forward. On Thursday, the pop star surpassed 12 million followers on Twitter. □

US town won't name bridge after Cobain



Kurt Cobain

ABERDEEN, Washington (AP) — Kurt Cobain's hometown won't be renaming a bridge after the late Nirvana front man.

Council members in Aberdeen, Washington, voted 10-1 against a resolution to rename the bridge.

KXRO reports the vote against the Cobain rename drew applause from the audience at Wednesday's council meeting. Some people were concerned about memorializing the grunge rock musician because of his drug use, suicide and negative comments about his hometown. The council did vote to name a small body of land on the Wishkah River the Cobain Landing. □

Box Office Preview:

'Cowboys' to outdraw 'Smurfs'



In this publicity image released by Universal Pictures, Olivia Wilde, left, and Daniel Craig are shown in a scene from "Cowboys & Aliens."

(AP Photo/Universal Pictures, Zade Rosenthal)

PAUL DERGARABEDIAN
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The mash-up "Cowboys & Aliens" will likely mean a smack-down for a superhero and some Smurfs this weekend, with the Universal/Dreamworks sci-fi/Western expected to open with a gross of between \$40 million and \$45 million at more than 3,700 theaters in North America. Starring Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig, directed by "Iron Man's" Jon Favreau, and with Steven Spielberg among its producers, this truly original film defies categorization and industry projections for its opening have varied. Yet awareness is very high for the film, which had its world premiere at Comic-Con

this past weekend, and the fan-boy factor should carry it to victory, despite weak reviews.

A superhero vs. Smurf smack-down in the \$30 million range is expected for the weekend's No. 2 spot as Paramount/Marvel's "Captain America: The First Avenger" tries to maintain some of last weekend's opening glory against PG newcomer "The Smurfs." Starring Neil Patrick Harris, the Sony 3-D film based on the wildly popular Smurfs comic books and the 1980s animated TV series is the very definition of cute and should do well with family audiences.

"Captain America" debuted in first place last weekend with \$65 million

and has been a solid mid-week warrior with more than \$85 million deposited in "America's" treasury through Tuesday, its sixth day of release. The film should easily pass the \$100 million mark in North America this weekend, when it also opens wide overseas.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" from Warner Bros. should maintain its money-making magic, placing fourth at about \$20 million domestically and likely setting still another record on Saturday when it could cross the \$1 billion mark internationally after just 16 days in release. This would beat "Avatar's" 17-day sprint to \$1 billion in 2009 — with the usual help from ticket-price inflation, of course.

The debuting "Crazy Stupid Love" from Warner Bros. offers summer audiences something different: a PG-13 comedy in a season that's been dominated by no less than five R-rated comedies.

Featuring a strong ensemble cast that includes Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, the date crowd will find much to love in this crazy mix of comedy and drama, giving it a not-so-stupid fifth-place gross approaching \$18 million. □

Actress de la Huerta pleads guilty in NY bar scrap

JENNIFER PELTZ,
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Paz de la Huerta admitted Thursday that she harassed a reality TV figure in a confrontation that authorities said was laced with ill will about their respective claims to fame.

"I'm extremely glad this is over," the "Boardwalk Empire" actress said after acknowledging in court that she threatened to hit Samantha Swetra in March at a bar at a chic Manhattan hotel. De la Huerta pleaded guilty to harassment, a violation that is akin to a traffic ticket. Her plea deal calls for a day of community service and 12 weeks of alcohol counseling. □



Actress Paz de la Huerta walks with her attorney Jamel Oeser-Sweat into the Manhattan Criminal Courts building in New York. The "Boardwalk Empire" actress admitted that she harassed a reality TV figure in a confrontation that authorities said was laced with ill will about their respective claims to fame.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle, file)

US movies headline Venice Film Festival

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — American filmmakers dominate the lineup of this year's Venice Film Festival, where George Clooney and four others will be competing for the Golden Lion, while Madonna, Al Pacino and Steven Soderbergh will premiere their latest directorial efforts.

The strong lineup also includes Roman Polanski's "Carnage," an adaptation of the Broadway show "God of Carnage" featuring Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz; David Cronenberg's take on psychoanalysis "A Dangerous Method," featuring Keira Knightley, Viggo Mortensen and Michael Fassbender; and "Shame," a drama by British director Steve McQueen featuring Fassbender and Carey Mulligan.

All 22 movies in competition at the world's oldest festival are world premieres, orga-



Venice Film Festival president Paolo Baratta, left, and director Marco Muller, speak at a press conference in Rome, Thursday, July 28, 2011. Roman Polanski, David Cronenberg and 5 American directors, including George Clooney and Abel Ferrara, will compete at this year's Venice Film Festival. Organizers said Thursday that all 22 movies competing for the Golden Lion are world premieres. Madonna and Al Pacino will present their feature films out of competition during the Aug. 31-Sept. 10 festival. Also out of competition is Steven Soderbergh's "Contagion," a virus thriller with an all-star cast that includes Matt Damon, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow.

(AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)

nizers said Thursday.

One of the 22 titles was kept secret and will be announced in coming weeks.

"We have looked for and

strengthened a relationship with American cinema each year," said festival director Marco Mueller.

However, he stressed that

the guidelines for selecting the movies were just "to take beautiful movies, movies that would make one think and dream."

He cited Clooney's political drama "The Ides of March" as an example of a "sharp film that takes a look at today with a critical eye."

The film about corruption and idealism in American politics, which stars Clooney, Ryan Gosling, Paul Giamatti and Philip Seymour Hoffman, will open the festival on Aug. 31.

Other American movies in competition include end-of-the-world film "4:44 Last Day on Earth" by Abel Ferrara; "Dark Horse" starring Mia Farrow and Christopher Walken and directed by Todd Solondz; "Killer Joe," a black comedy by William Friedkin starring Matthew McConaughey in the title role; and the second feature film by Ami Canaan Mann, "Texas Killing Fields," a murder drama featuring Sam Worthington and Jessica Chastain.

Also in competition are a spy movie based on John le Carre's best-seller "Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy" starring Oscar winner Colin Firth; "Himizu," based on a manga comic-book; and "Poulet Aux Prunes" (literally translated as "Chicken with Plums") co-directed by Marjane Satrapi, the author of comic book and Oscar-nominated film "Persepolis," and Vincent Paronnaud.

Chastain, who had previously starred in "The Tree of Life," also appears in Pacino's "Wilde Salome," an exploration of Oscar Wilde's work that combines documentary and film, much like Pacino did in his previous "Looking for Richard."

In addition to the five films competing for the top prize, seven American movies are to be shown in side events. They include the Pacino movie and works by Jonathan Demme, James Franco and Whit Stillman.

The lineup suggests a star-studded red carpet, though Mueller would not say which stars will attend the festival.

Among the most highly-anticipated events is Madonna's second feature film, the U.K. production "W.E." □

Colorful creations:

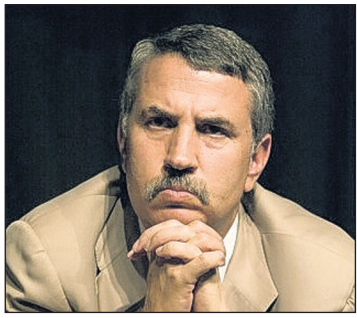
Colombia Moda Fashion Week



Modes wear creations by Spain's designer Agatha Ruiz De La Prada during the Colombia Moda fashion show in Medellin, Colombia, Thursday July 28, 2011.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)

Can't we do this right?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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There is only one thing worse than Republicans and Democrats failing to agree to lift the debt ceiling, and that is lifting the debt ceiling without a well-thought-out plan and with hasty cuts totaling trillions of dollars over a decade. What business do you know – that is still in business – would operate this way: making massive long-term cuts, negotiated by exhausted executives, without any strategic plan? It certainly wouldn't be a business you'd expect to thrive. Maybe you can grow without a plan. But if you cut without a plan, you will almost surely hit an artery or a bone that could really debilitate you. That, I fear, is where we are heading.

Stop for a minute and ask: What would it look like if we were approaching this problem properly? For starters, two years ago Congress and the Obama administration would have collaborated on a series of hearings under the heading: "What world are we living in?" They would have included a broad range of business, education and technology leaders testifying about what are the major trends and opportunities that are expected to shape the job market for the next decade. Surely, the hyperconnecting of the world, the intensification of globalization and outsourcing, the challenges of energy and climate and the growing automation of the work space that is rapidly increasing productivity with fewer workers all would have figured prominently.

Then we would have put together "The National Commission for 21st Century America," with this assignment: Given these big trends, what will America need to thrive in this world and how should we adapt our unique formula for success?

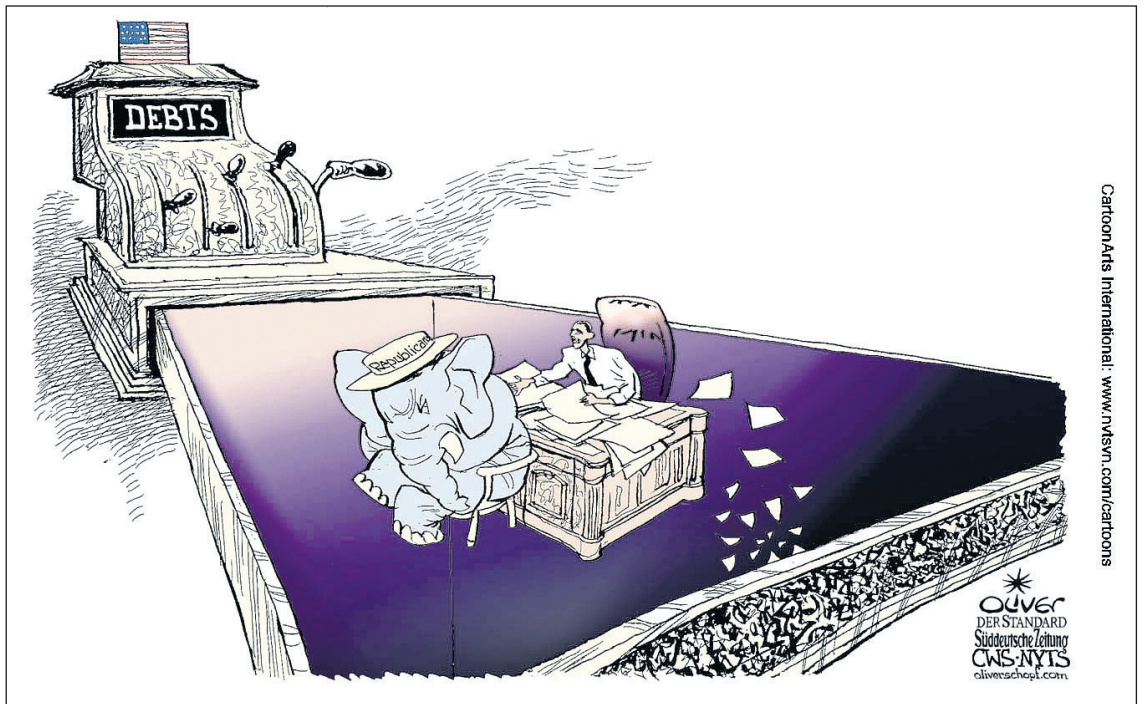
Yes, we have developed such a formula over the course of American history, and it is built on five basic pillars: educating the workforce up to and beyond whatever technology demands; building the world's best infrastructure of ports, roads and telecommunications; attracting the world's most dynamic and high-IQ immigrants to enrich our universities and start new businesses; putting together the best regulations to incentivize risk-taking while curbing recklessness (not always perfectly); and funding research to push out the boundaries of science and then let American innovators and venture capitalists pluck off the most promising new ideas for new business. Only after we had done all that

would we then sit down with a blank sheet of paper and say, "OK, given our current fiscal predicament, where should we cut spending and where must we raise new tax revenues so that we can bring our government back to solvency and, at the same time, reinvigorate our formula for growth and success." After all, "We don't just need a plan for regaining American solvency. We need a plan for maintaining American greatness and sustaining the American dream for another generation," argues Michael Mandelbaum, the Johns Hopkins University foreign policy expert (and co-author with me of a forthcoming book). "Such a plan requires cutting, taxing and spending. It requires cutting because we have made promises to ourselves on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid that we cannot keep without reforming each of them." But we cannot possibly generate the savings – or the new investments we need in our formula for success – by just taking funds from these social programs and shredding the social safety nets, adds Mandelbaum. "That would trigger a backlash against free-market capitalism. And free-market capitalism is the engine of our growth, and growth is the best way to reduce the deficit."

That is why we need to raise new tax revenues as well – so we can simultaneously shrink the entitlement programs, but still keep them viable, and generate the funds needed to strengthen all five parts of our growth formula. Anyone who says that either entitlement reform or tax increases are off the table does not have a plan for sustaining American greatness and passing on the American dream to the next generation.

Alas, that is the Tea Party. It is so lacking in any aspiration for American greatness, so dominated by the narrowest visions for our country and so ignorant of the fact that it was not tax cuts that made America great but our unique public-private partnerships across the generations. If sane Republicans do not stand up to this Hezbollah faction in their midst, the Tea Party will take the GOP on a suicide mission. No American politician was more allergic to debt or taxes than Thomas Jefferson, but he also appreciated the need to have the resources to make the Louisiana Purchase and insisted that on his tombstone it be written that he founded the University of Virginia.

Personally, I'll support anyone with a real plan to cut spending, raise revenues and boost investment in the five pillars of our success – Democrat or Republican. But if neither Republicans nor Democrats can see that we need a hybrid politics today – one that requires cutting, taxing and investing as part of a single nation-building strategy (phased in over time) – then I'll hope for a third party that does get it and can take us where we need to go. □



CartoonArts International: www.nytsm.com/cartoons

Obama's path from poetry to drudgery



FRANK BRUNI

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON – Just three months ago, for at least a little while, everything felt so different. You were triumphant, the audaciously hopeful gambler who had rolled the dice and vanquished bin Laden, even though some of the experts advising you had put the odds well below 50-50.

For showing extraordinary nerve, you were repaid with exceptional luck.

Even three weeks ago, you were in a better place.

Unbeknownst to most of the partisan warriors and nearly all of the cynical scribes around town, you and John Boehner had been huddling in the White House, talking trillions, tracing the heady contours of a grand bargain.

It was another big bet, but with odds no worse than the last one, or so you calculated.

And in Boehner, you believed, you'd found a similarly motivated accomplice with a similarly long-range view. Despite your customary reserve, you experienced the stirrings of a real fondness for him.

Then ... breakdowns. Standoffs. Near chaos on Capitol Hill. And, now, a piteous basket of pathetic final-hour fixes that could yield a downgrade of the country's credit rating and aren't durable solutions: Band-Aids where a

tourniquet was once discussed. Even if default is averted, the nation's mountainous debt will likely remain a source of anguish and acrimony through and even past the 2012 election.

Will there ever be any money or oxygen for actually getting stuff done?

That was part of what a grand bargain was supposed to accomplish: not just badly needed fiscal discipline but badly wanted Obama liberation; one emphatic, enduring push past this constipated juncture; a changed discussion before Election Day; enough cutbacks and revenue to permit some spending again down the line. Republicans sensed all of that.

It gave them added incentive to stop you, not that they needed much more.

They don't trust you. No matter how reasonable a face you show them, they're convinced that a raging liberal lies beneath, biding his time.

What a crew they are, tarring you as the Spendthrift-in-Chief, though the fiscal crater in which Washington languishes was dug in enormous measure by an economic slowdown that preceded you and by the tax cuts and military campaigns of their president. You got stuck with the mess.

That's your cinching, suffocating, unjust reality.

Your campaign had all the romance of history in the making; your presidency has all the drudgery of a toxic cleanup. You orated your way into janitorial work.

Into a ceaseless, tedious blame game, too.

That's Washington's default pastime, and it's a blood sport, which you and Boehner were playing during your rival addresses Monday night, when the battle wasn't just about the debt ceiling but about images and reputations in the aftermath.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, it was the Republicans who looked more incompetent and immature, as Boehner fought to subdue the obstructionists in his ranks, purists who won't brook even the most picayune compromise, let alone the tiniest tax

increase.

Some of them don't fear default. They somehow regard it as a fleeting, instructive purgative. But if the country winds up there, and even if it doesn't, it's hard to see how this embarrassing mess doesn't taint you. There will be questions about whether you put your marker down at the right time, with enough specificity and force.

There will be assertions that you didn't make a persuasive and coherent enough case to voters.

At least a majority of them still blame your predecessor for the gasping economy.

But that can last only so long, and it's not a refrain you can tote onto the campaign trail, swapping "Yes We Can" for "Not My Fault."

Your fortunes may well be manacled to an unemployment rate that, to your thinking, is more reflective of dynamics beyond your control than of any tinkering you can do.

So you watch. You wait. The aloofness observers ascribe to you could just as accurately be described as fatalism.

It has been a challenging few years, and not just politically. Michelle wasn't as prepared for the airlessness and isolation of "the bubble" as some of the first ladies before her. It's one of Washington's worst-kept secrets that she has known happier times.

The coming campaign won't thrill her.

But you're still catching breaks. Your field of Republican challengers is weak.

None have your personal narrative, your symbolic power. Even Americans unsure of you remain invested in you.

A second term could be yours. Would it be much better and freer than the first? With the \$4 trillion package that you and Boehner once discussed long gone, will you ever be able to govern during a chapter free of limits, ceilings, boxes, constraints? You got health care reform, and then you got heartache. What you must worry that you'll never get is a sustained, true chance. □



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